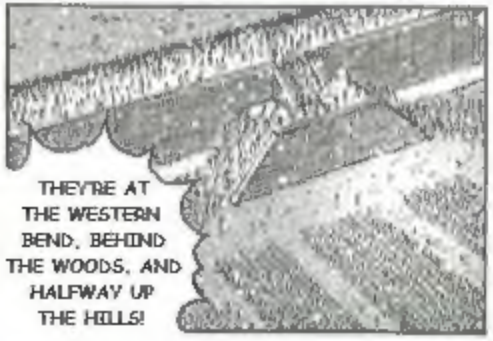
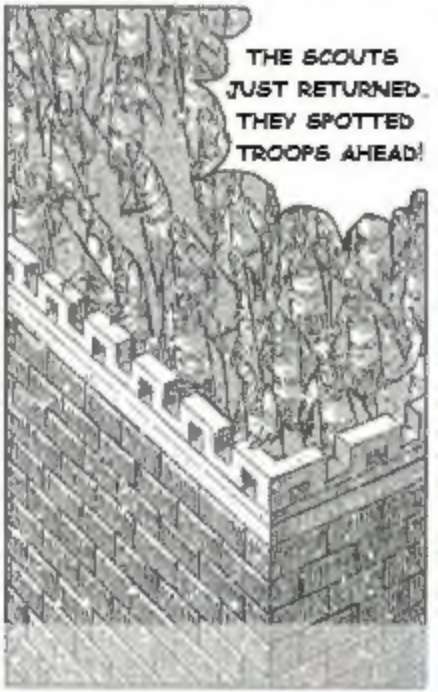
火凰燎原

THE XU CAPITOL


THEY'RE AT THE WESTERN BEND, BEHIND THE WOODS, AND HALFWAY UP THE HILLS!

THEIR NUMBERS ARE SMALL. THEY MUST BE SCOUTING FOR STATION GROUNDS!


THE SCOUTS JUST RETURNED. THEY SPOTTED TROOPS AHEAD!

三國群英傳

火風燎原

第四百一十八回

決策之王

CH 428 THE KING OF DECISIVE STRATEGY

TRANSLATE : MERC'S
EDITOR : YUDY

★《火風燎原》第52集發售☆赤壁風起！
☆《火風燎原 珍藏版》第9集☆
首刷贈送【張飛】書籤卡和書盒！
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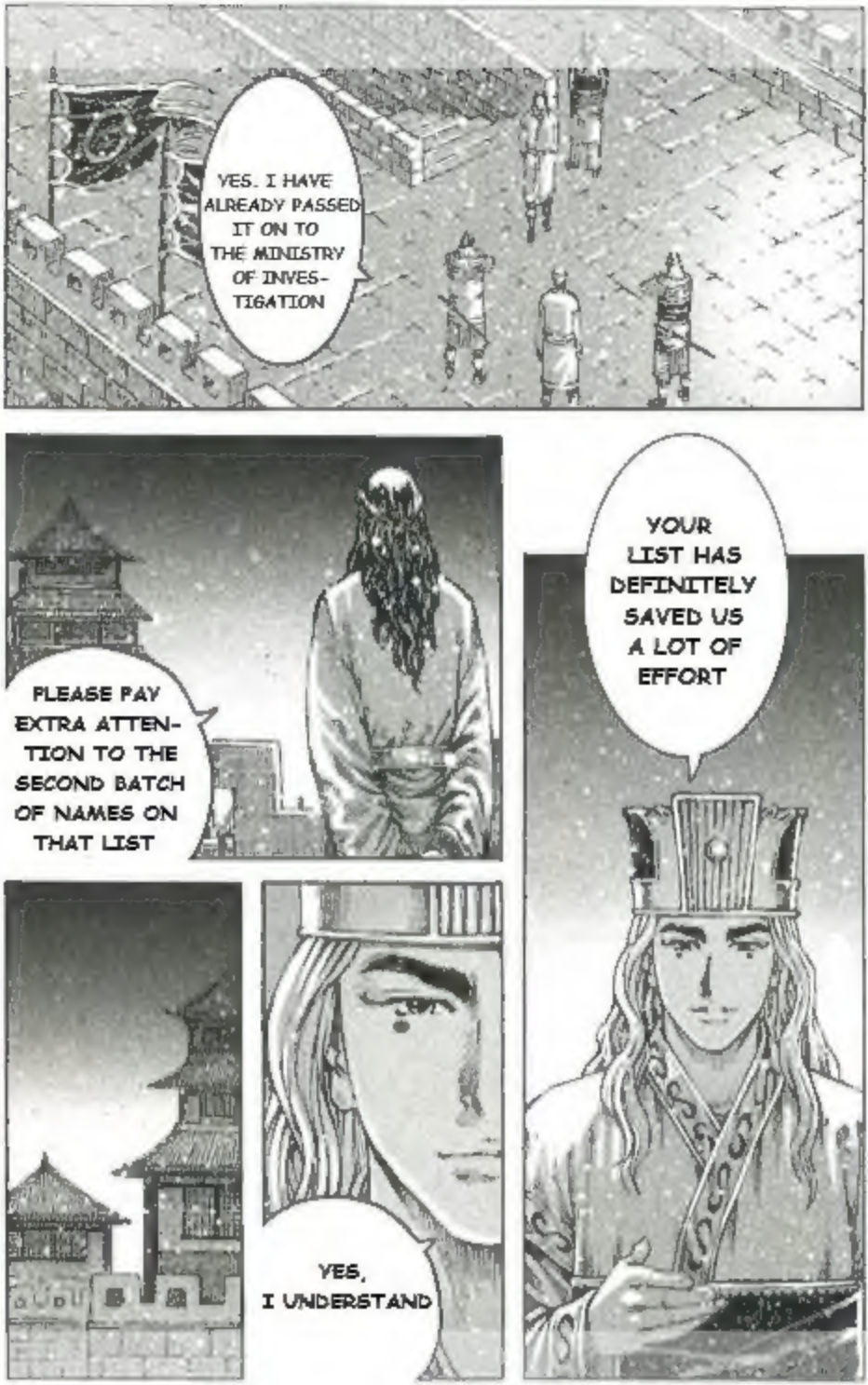
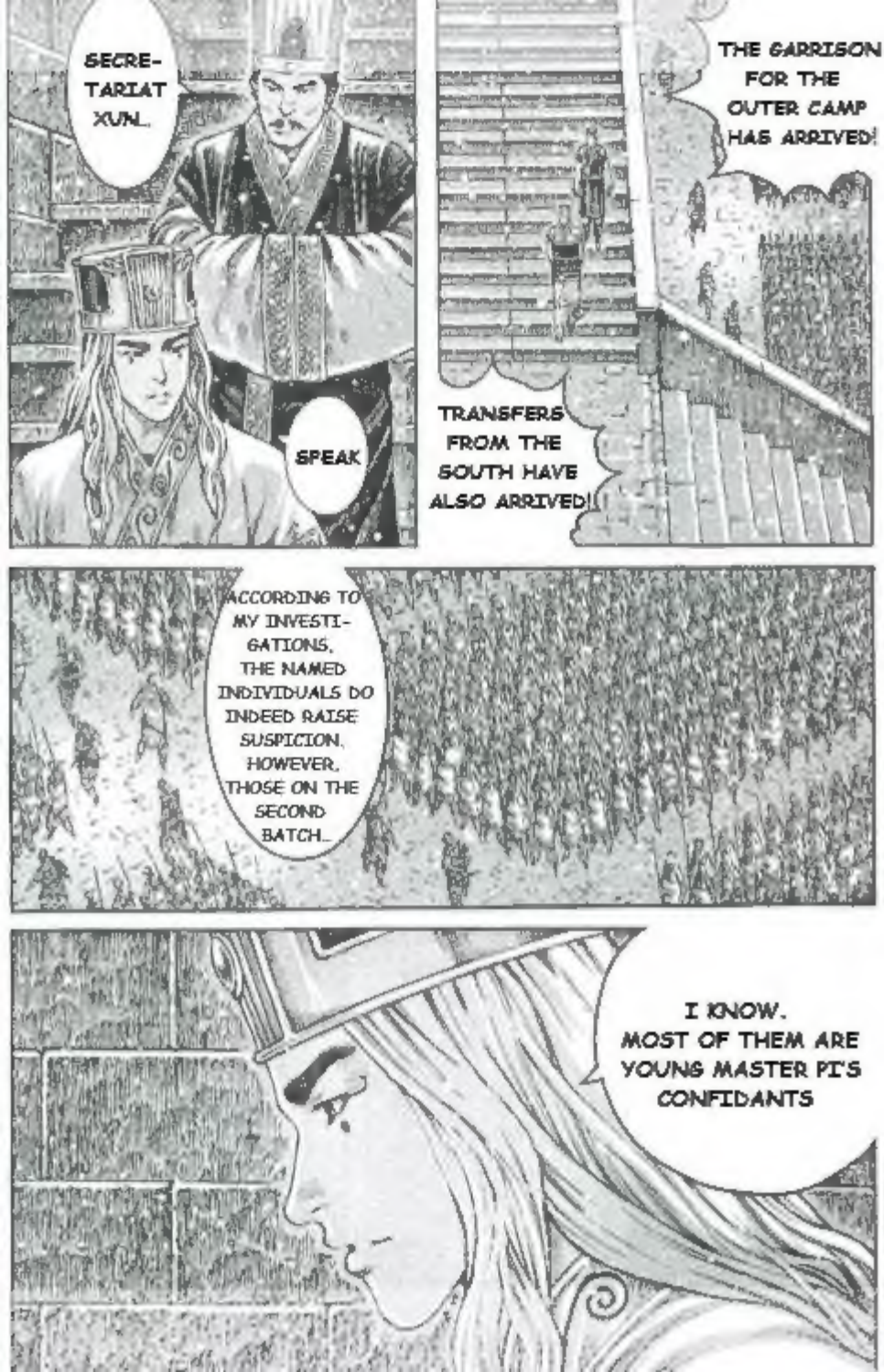
SECRETARIAT XUN, I HAVE ENACTED CURFEW TO CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES
THE INSIDERS WONT ACT NOW BECAUSE THEIR GOAL IS TO ASSIST AN ATTACK
LOCK THE GATES AND KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON EVERY CLAN IN THE CITY
NOT BAD

SECRETARIAT XUN DOES INDEED MAKE PROMPT DECISIONS
HAVE YOU RECEIVED MY LIST OF SUSPECTS?
YOUR COOPERATION MADE EVERY-THING SIMPLER, YOUNG MASTER

CAO CAO'S FOURTH SON, CAO ZHI


YES. I HAVE ALREADY PASSED IT ON TO THE MINISTRY OF INVES-TIGATION
PLEASE PAY EXTRA ATTEN-TION TO THE SECOND BATCH OF NAMES ON THAT LIST
YOUR LIST HAS DEFINITELY SAVED US A LOT OF EFFORT
YES, I UNDERSTAND


SECRE-
TARIAT
XUN.
SPEAK.
THE GARRISON FOR THE OUTER CAMP HAS ARRIVED!
TRANSFERS FROM THE SOUTH HAVE ALSO ARRIVED!
ACCORDING TO MY INVESTI-GATIONS, THE NAMED INDIVIDUALS DO INDEED RAISE SUSPICION. HOWEVER, THOSE ON THE SECOND BATCH...
I KNOW. MOST OF THEM ARE YOUNG MASTER PI'S CONFIDANTS

YES.
WE WOULD BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IF YOUNG MASTER PI TAKES ISSUE WITH THIS.
BUT IF WE DO NOTHING, IT WILL BE TROUBLESOME WHEN SOMETHING DOES GO WRONG
IF WE WERE TO INVESTIGATE THEM, HONESTLY I'M AFRAID YOUNG MASTER PI WOULD
THINGS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED

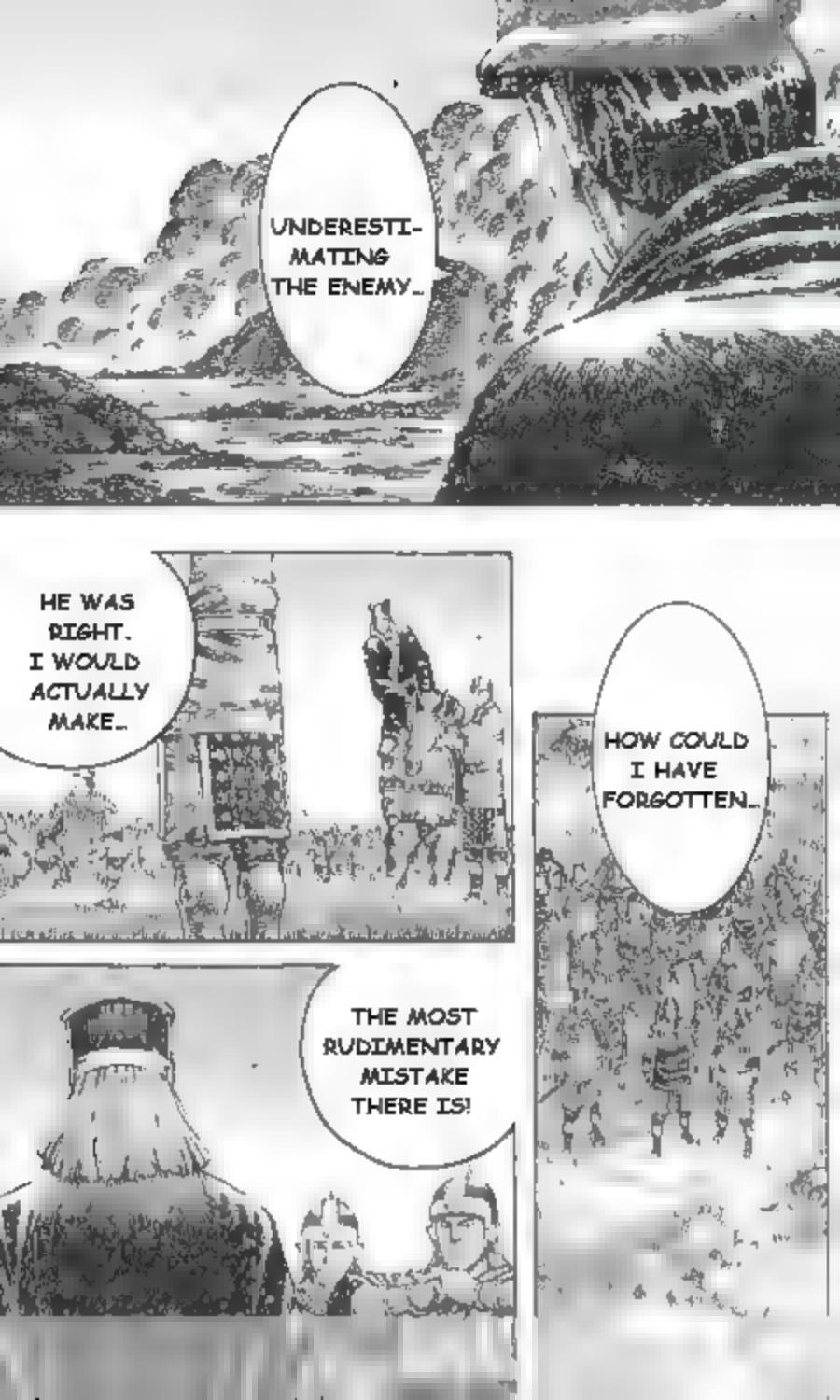
A GROWN MAN WILL HAVE GOALS. EXCEPT_
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR BROTHERS TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES

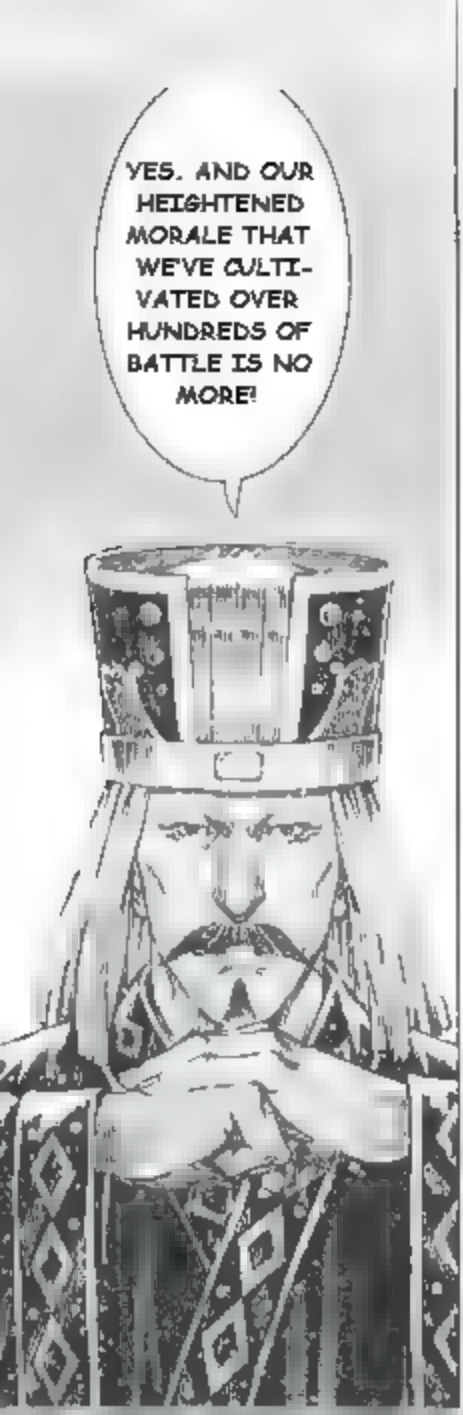
THEREFORE YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON THE REBELS OUTSIDE, SECRETARIAT
BROTHERS MAY QUARREL AT HOME. OUTSIDE, THEY NEVER FIGHT ALONE. OR SO SAYS THE POEM
AND LEAVE THE REST TO US SERVANTS
YES. LET'S DISCUSS SECRETS IN SECRET
YOU'RE DISMIS-SED
YES SIR

SOMEONE IS INDEED TRYING TO ELIMINATE OUR LORD DURING THIS CRISIS
AS IF YOUR BEHAVIOR ISN'T SUSPICIOUS AT ALL

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN MY DUTY, SECRETARIAT
THE FLAMES ARE HEADING THIS WAY!
PULL BACK FURTHER!

MY LORD, THESE TROOPS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WULIN'S DEFENSES.
WULIN IS FINISHED!
THAT... THAT MEANS... WULIN...


UNDERESTI-
MATING
THE ENEMY...
HE WAS
RIGHT.
I WOULD
ACTUALLY
MAKE...
HOW COULD
I HAVE
FORGOTTEN...
THE MOST
RUDIMENTARY
MISTAKE
THERE IS!

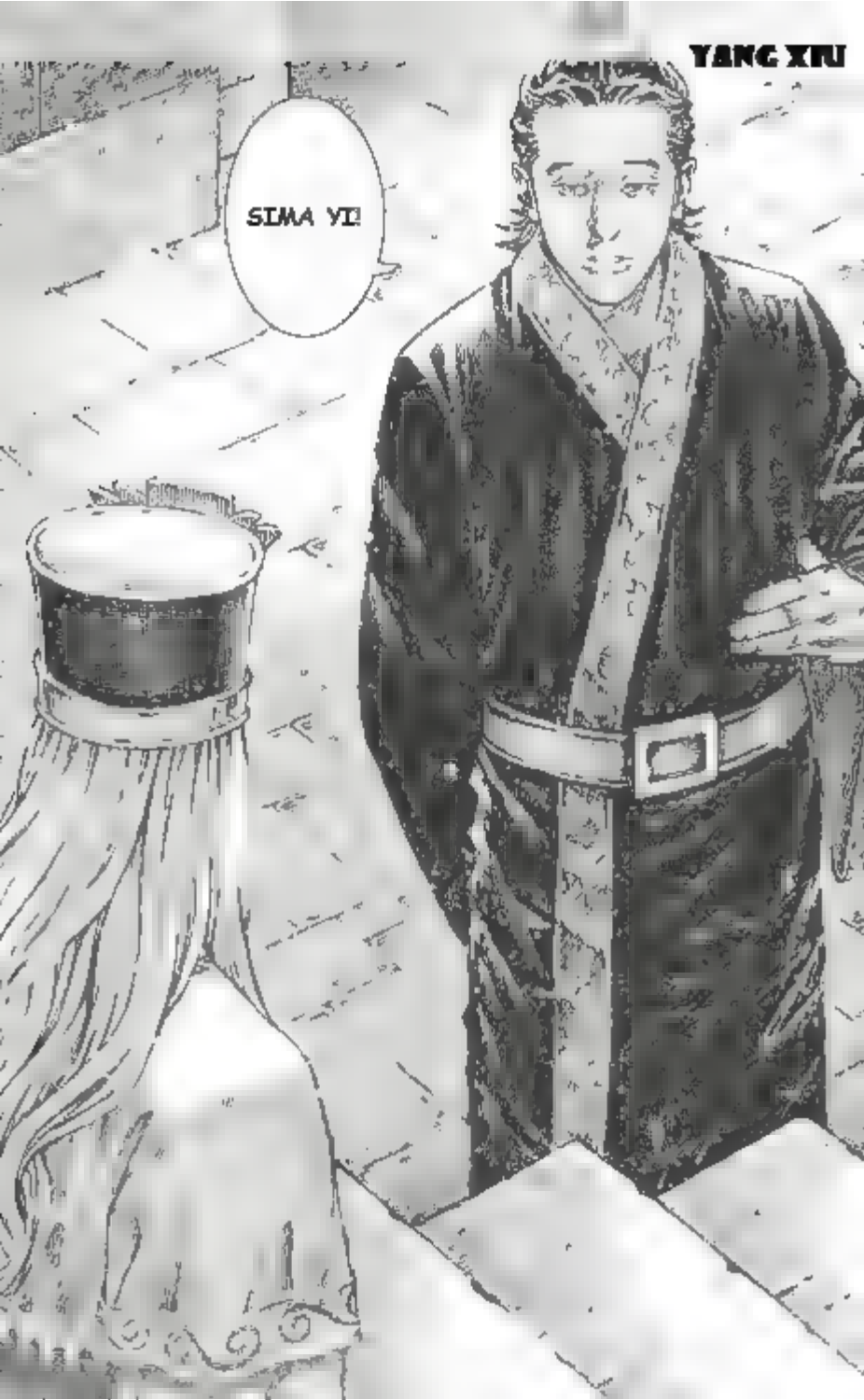


CAO CAO'S MILITARY COUNCILOR, CHENG YU

YES.
THE WORLD WILL ALSO REALIZE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT UNBEATABLE!
YES WE SHALL FACE AN EVEN GREATER CRISIS THAN EVER BEFORE!
THIS IS WHAT OUR ENEMY WANTS TO PROVE TO THE WORLD!

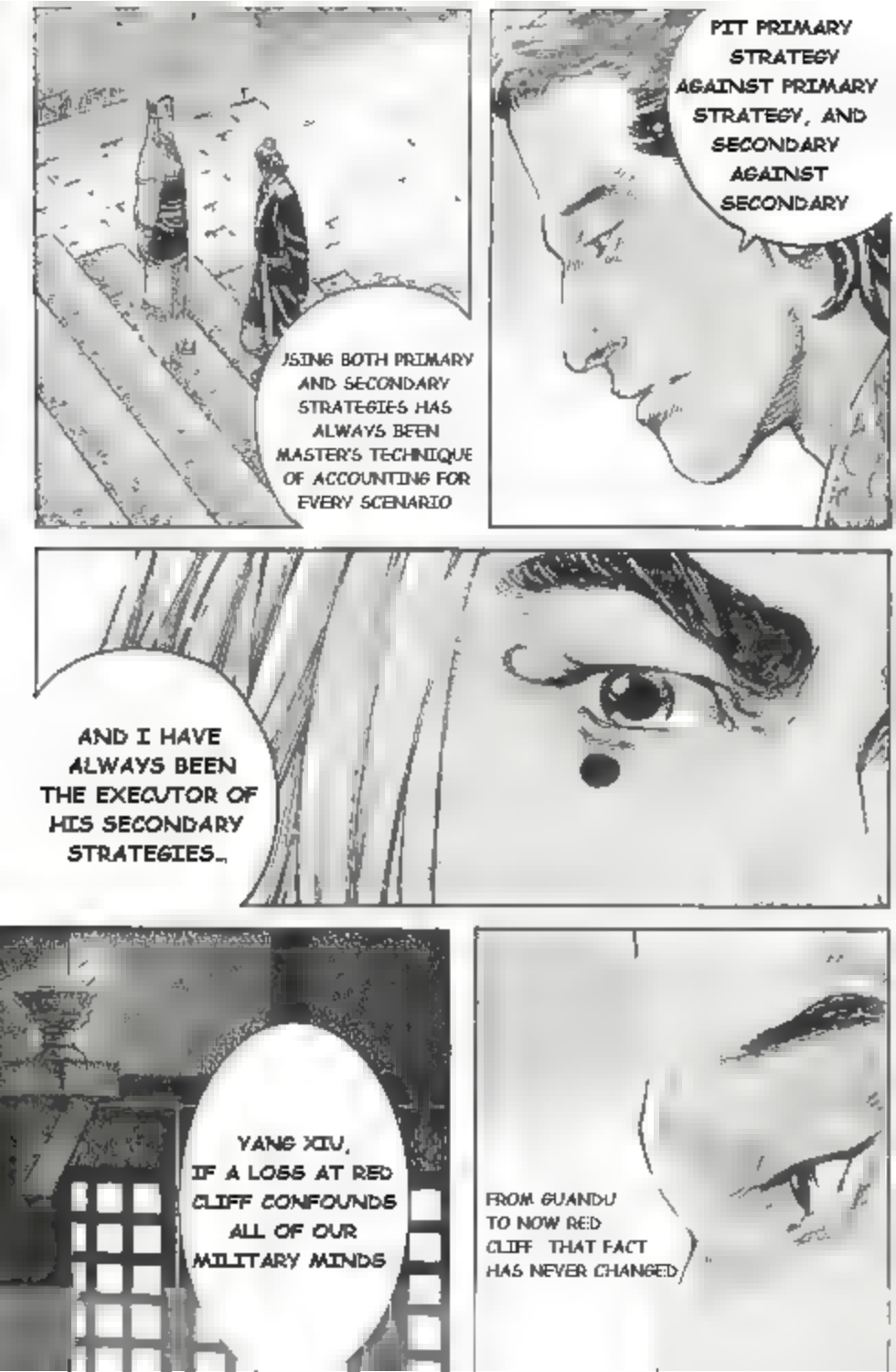
AND THE NAIL TO THE COFFIN WAS SUN CLAN'S UNIMAGINABLE SKILLS IN NAVAL WARFARE
MY LORD, THEIR STEPWISE BAITING STRATEGY WAS INDEED IMPOSSIBLE TO GUARD AGAINST
THEN. DO WE HAVE A COUNTER-STRATEGY?
EXCEPT FOR ONE THAT THEY COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR
OUR DIVISIONS ALL HAD COUNTER-STRATEGIES. BY NOW, HOWEVER, WE'VE ALL BEEN LED BY THE NOSE

THEY COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR A SECONDARY STRATEGY!
SO, THE SECONDARY STRATEGY IS TO USE SPY
THEN... WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?


YANG XIU
SIMA YI

YOU MAY THINK, SECRETARIAT, THAT I'M FRAMING YOUNG MASTER PI'S SUPPORTER TO RAISE YOUNG MASTER ZHI'S STATUS
ACTUALLY, ALL I KNOW IS THAT SOMEONE GOT CLOSE TO YOUNG MASTER PI
IN ORDER TO PLANT SEEDS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS
HE... HAD BETRAYED OUR LORD

I KNEW HIS INTENTION, SO I JOINED HIS PLOY
BESIDES COLLUDING WITH HIM, MY GOAL WAS ALSO TO PROBE THE AMOUNT OF INTELLIGENCE HE HAS GATHERED
AND HE HAS CLIMBED UP THE POWER LADDER THROUGH SHREWDNESS ALONE UNTIL MY RECENT DISCOVERY OF HIS CONNECTION TO ZUO CI.
IN THE END I COULDN'T FISH OUT A SINGLE PIECE OF EVIDENCE HE'S ONE CLEVER SON OF A BITCH. I MUST ADMIT


USING BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STRATEGIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN MASTER'S TECHNIQUE OF ACCOUNTING FOR EVERY SCENARIO
PIT PRIMARY STRATEGY AGAINST PRIMARY STRATEGY, AND SECONDARY AGAINST SECONDARY
AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE EXECUTOR OF HIS SECONDARY STRATEGIES...
YANG XIU, IF A LOSS AT RED CLIFF CONFOUNDS ALL OF OUR MILITARY MINDS
FROM GUANDU TO NOW RED CLIFF THAT FACT HAS NEVER CHANGED

PROCEED WITH MY SECONDARY STRATEGY

MASTER, WHY NOT ELIMINATE SIMA YI AND BE DONE WITH THIS FUTURE THREAT?
NO, YOU MUST GET CLOSE TO HIM, BECAUSE..

I... INTEND TO FORESHADOW OUR LORD'S UNIFICATION OF THE WORLD!
下回 共同志向!

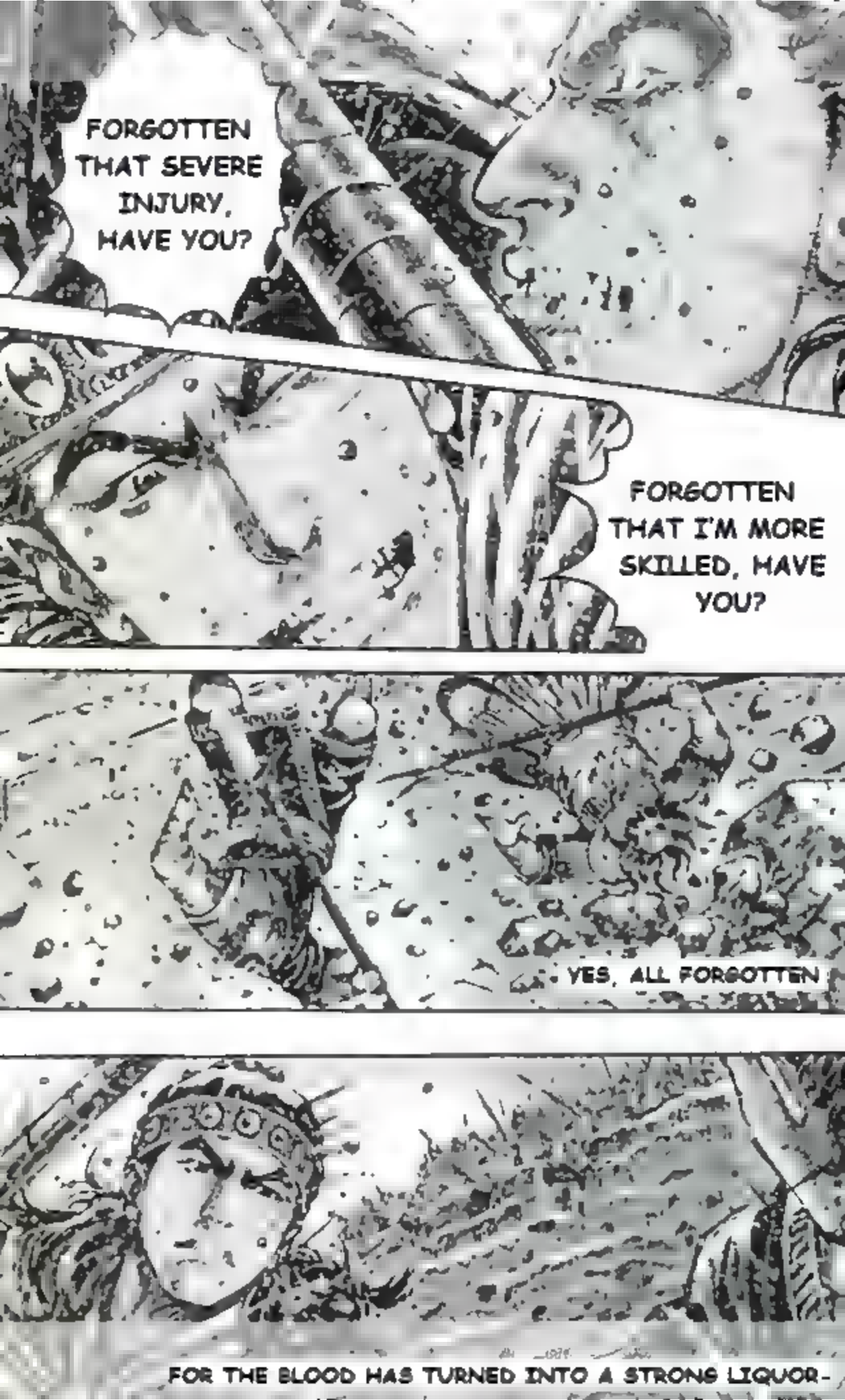
TO CERTAIN THINGS

FUTURISTIC

BUT GENERAL ZHANG LIAO IS STILL HERE!

CH 429 OUTSIDE THEY NEVER FIGHT ALONE

TRANSLATOR: MIDNIGHT BLOOD'S EDITOR'S: TUDT "BREACHES"

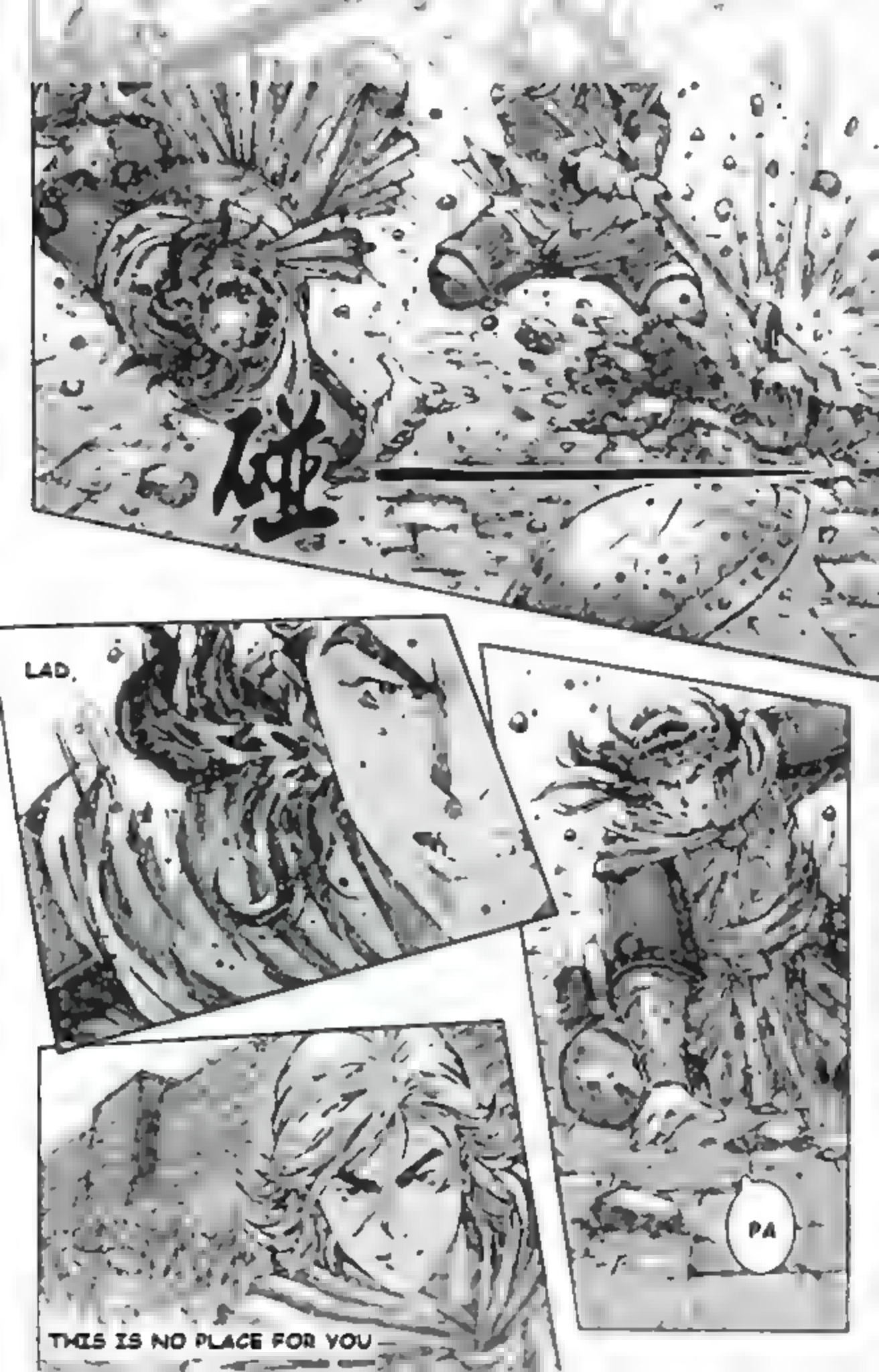

FORGOTTEN THAT SEVERE INJURY, HAVE YOU?
FORGOTTEN THAT I'M MORE SKILLED, HAVE YOU?
YES, ALL FORGOTTEN
FOR THE BLOOD HAS TURNED INTO A STRONG LIQUOR-

NUMBING THE BETTER JUDGMENT
YOU... FORGOT?
FIERCE BATTLE?
SAVE YOUR BREATH, WHY DON'T YOU!
OR DRUNK ON THE RUSH?

THE WOUND HAS LONG SINCE STOPPED HURTING
DRIVEN BY FRENZY, MOVING ACCORDING TO INSTINCT
HUFF..
BUT SAN NING

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO RETIRE!
NO, HE'S_
ONLY THE STRONG SHALL REMAIN AFTER THE FEAST_

MINEI


LAD.
PA
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU —

YOUR NAME
LING TONG
YES. I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN-
A DESCENDENT OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN LING CLAN?

THIS, FATHER'S KILLER-
THIS GAN NING WHO KILLED MY FATHER LING CAO

VENGEANCE PERMEATES MY EVERY THOUGHT
THAT I KEPT ANOTHER PRINCIPLE CLOSE TO HEART
LET ME TELL YOU, HOWEVER,
THAT IS, WHOEVER SERVES THE SUN CLAN

IS ALSO A BROTHER I VALUE THE MOST
BROTHERS MAY QUARREL AT HOME BUT OUTSIDE THEY NEVER FIGHT ALONE

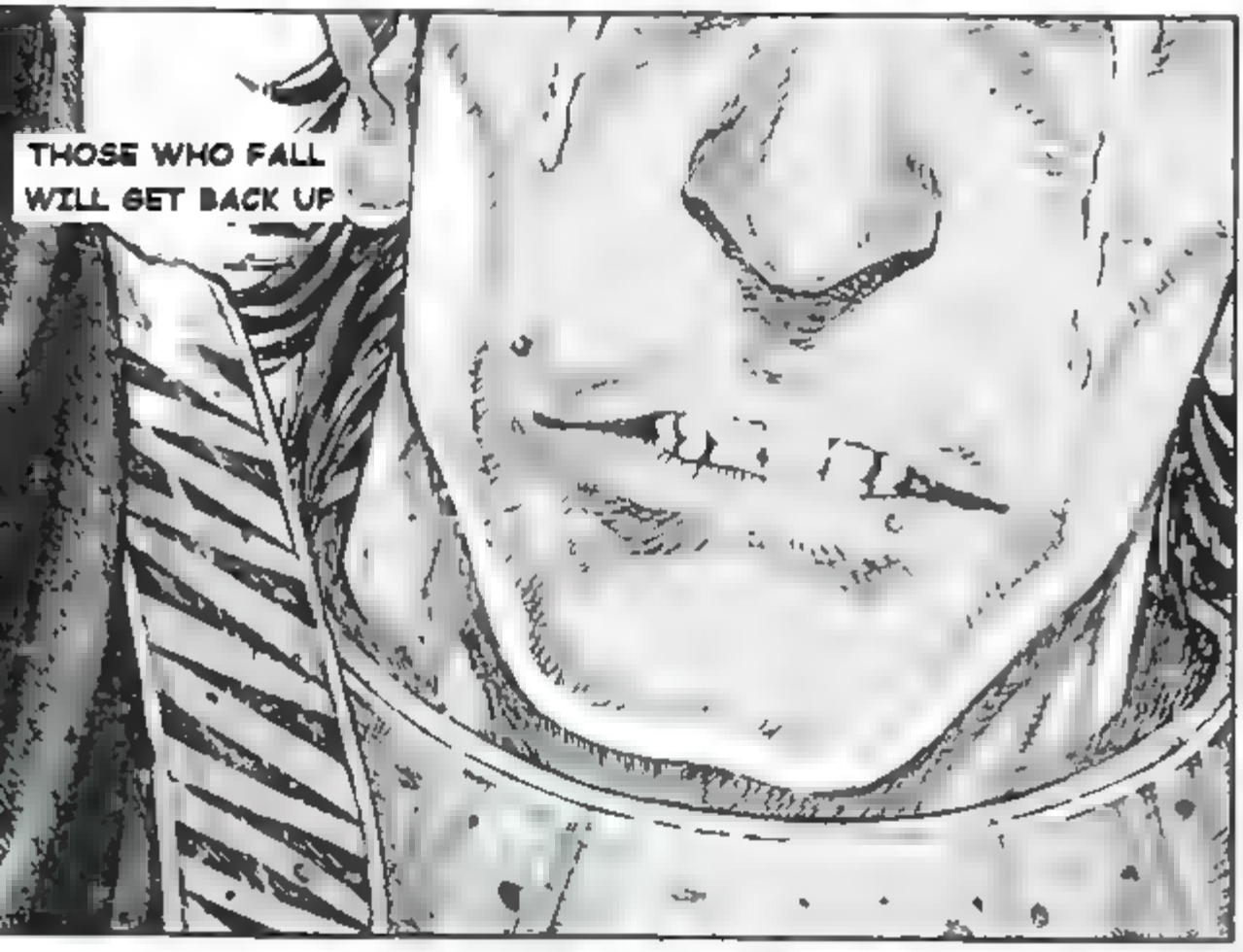
THE GREATER GOOD TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER ALL ELSE!

STAND UP, GAN NING!

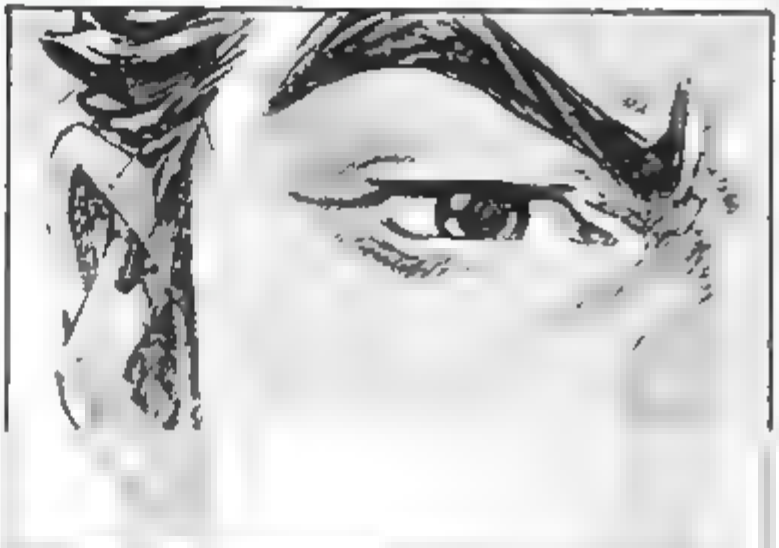
I... HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED A CLEAR HEAD

DA

THE GREATER GOOD
HAS ALREADY TAKEN
PRECEDENCE OVER
EVERYTHING


THOSE WHO FALL
WILL GET BACK UP

I FEEL,
AT THIS MOMENT_

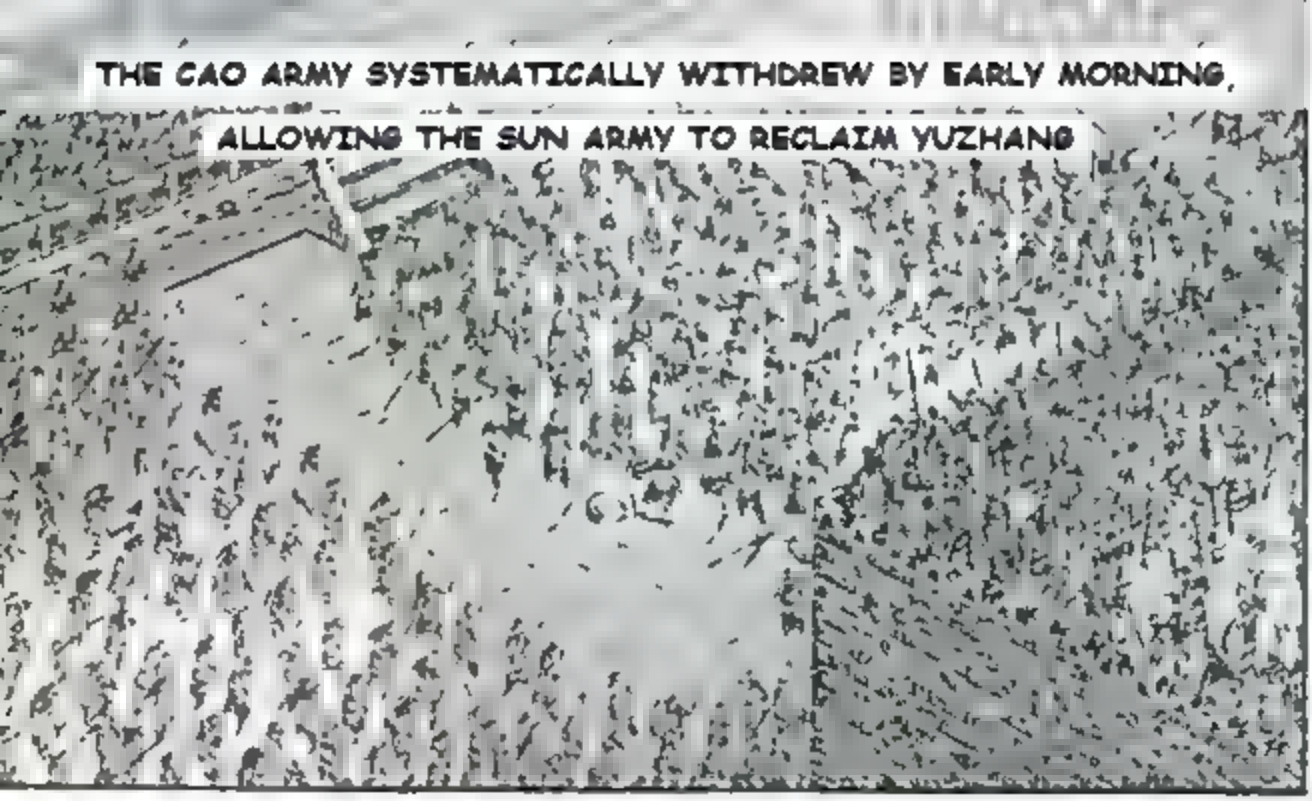


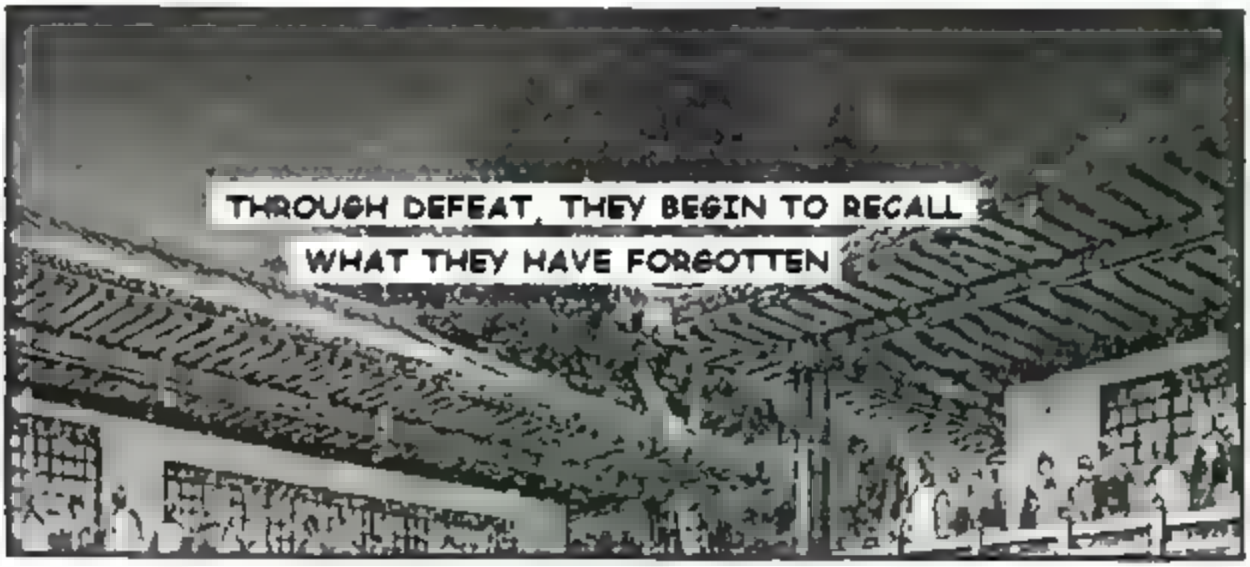
A LONGING FOR THE SUPPORT THAT WILL ALWAYS KEEP ME STANDING

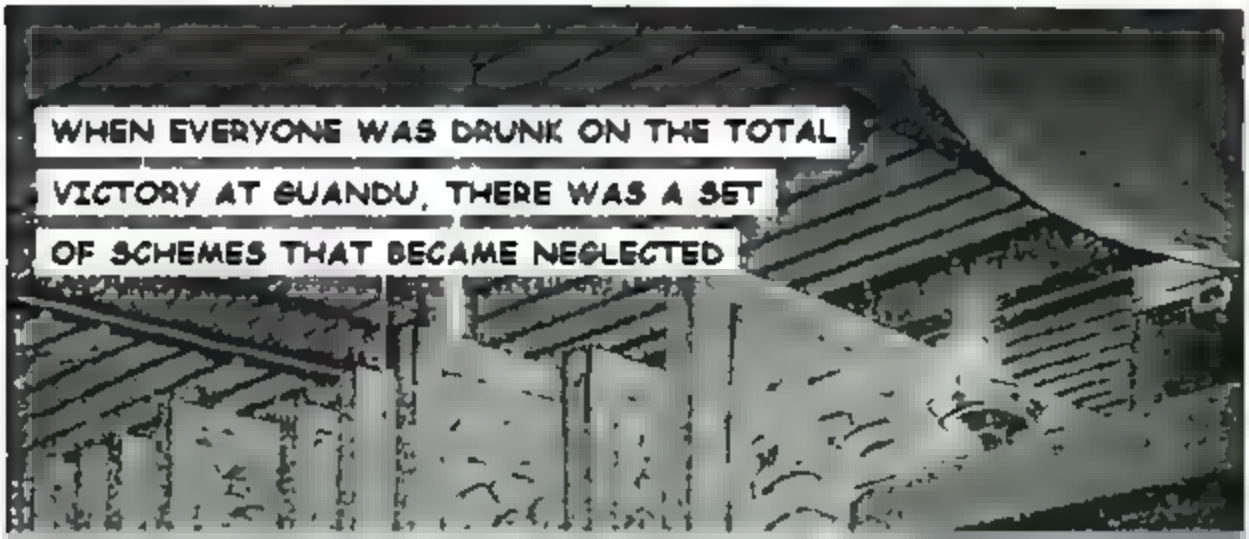
EXCEPT IT'S AN EMPTY DREAM
THE WOUND SUDDENLY SHIVERS WITHOUT INHIBITION
THE PAIN AWAKENS ME-

YANKING ME BACK INTO REALITY
PRAGMATISM RETURNS
WITH THE AWAKENING
IN COMPLETE
SOBRIETY I SPEAK

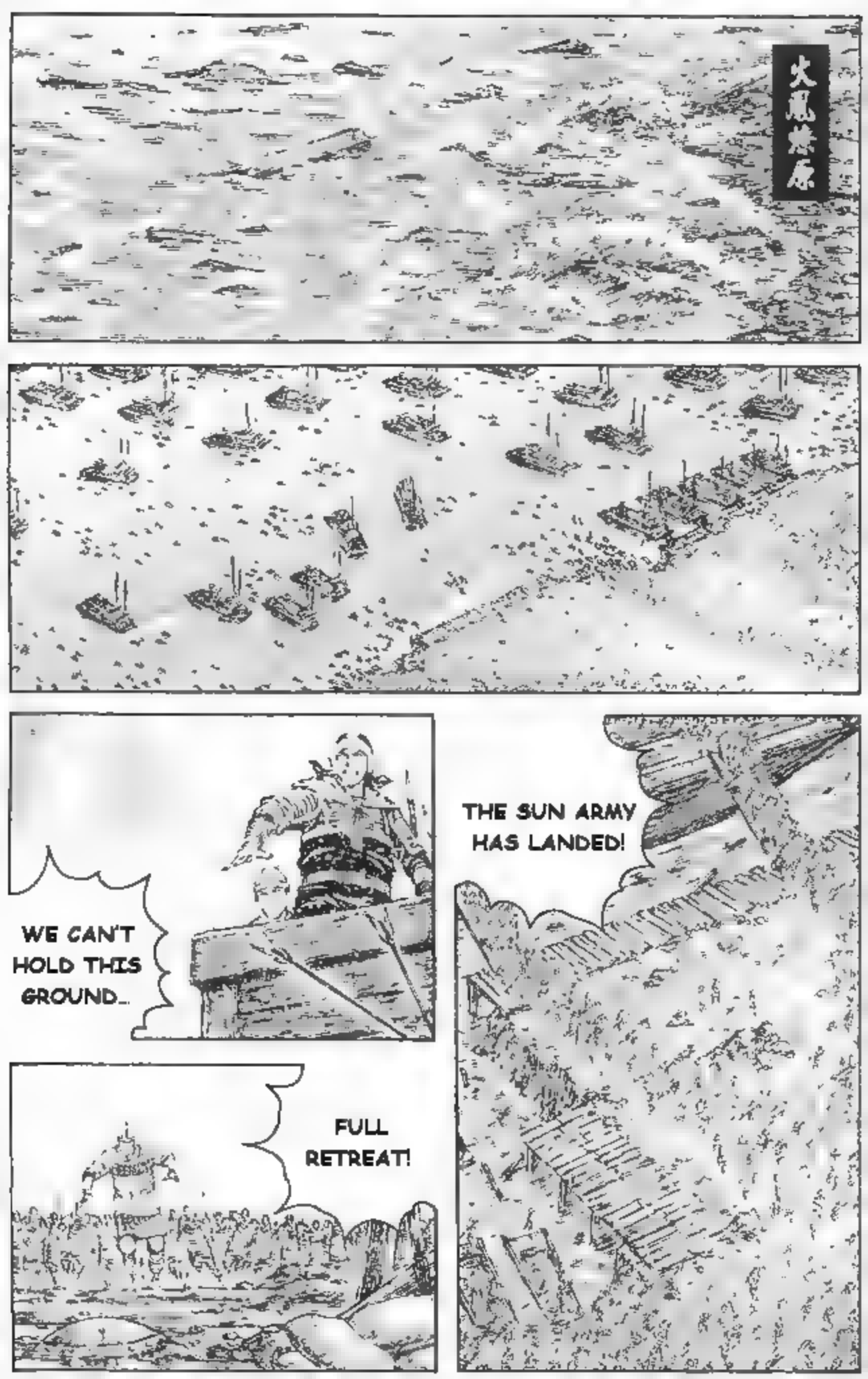
MY BROTHERS
LET'S RETREAT!


THE CAO ARMY SYSTEMATICALLY WITHDREW BY EARLY MORNING,
ALLOWING THE SUN ARMY TO RECLAIM YUZHANG


THROUGH DEFEAT, THEY BEGIN TO RECALL
WHAT THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN


WHEN EVERYONE WAS DRUNK ON THE TOTAL
VICTORY AT GUANDU, THERE WAS A SET
OF SCHEMES THAT BECAME NEGLECTED

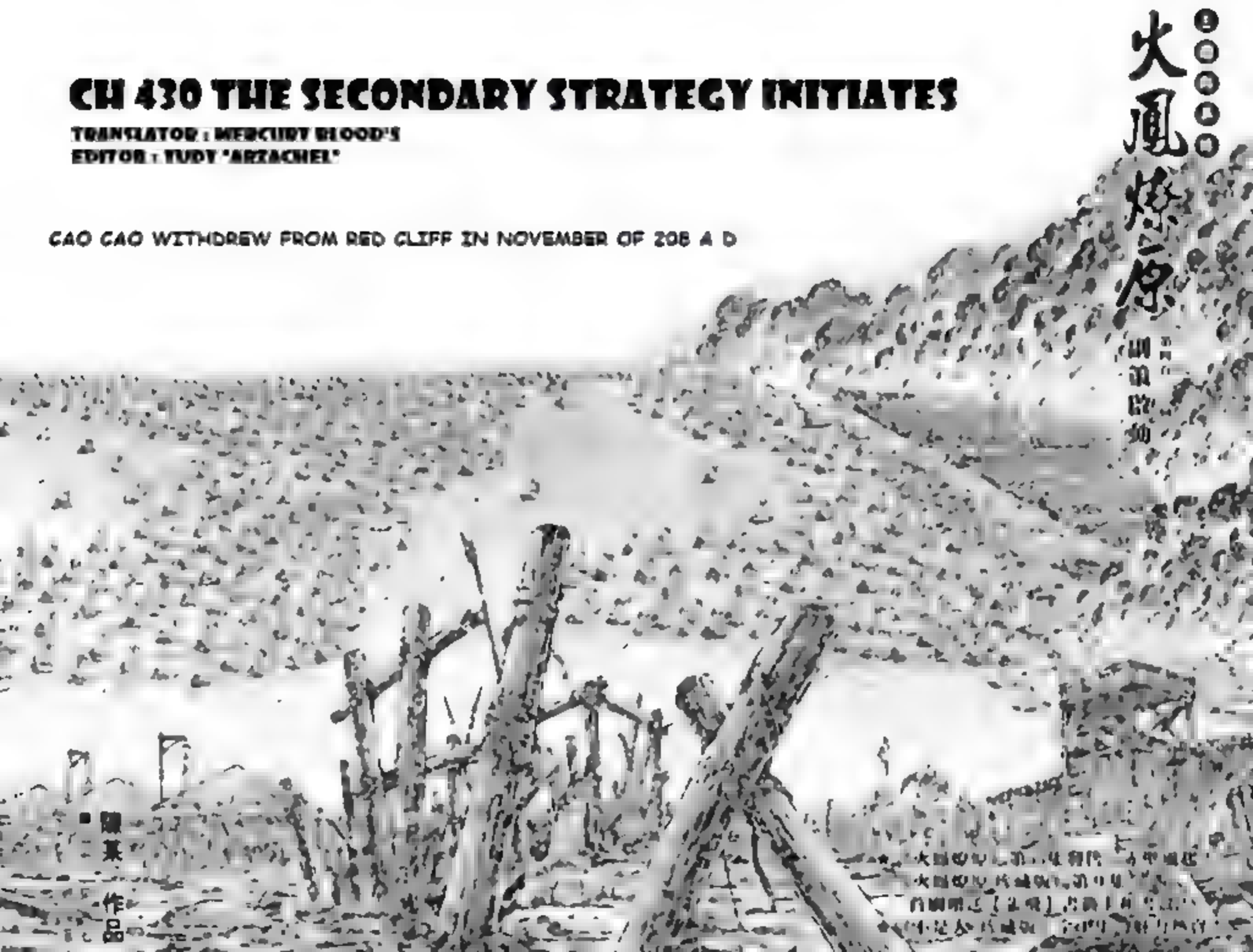
AND THESE SCHEMES ARE NOW KEEPING THE TIDE STEADY
WHILE WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETALIATE
下回、登陸赤壁！
下回休刊！
敬請期待～


火鳥林原
WE CAN'T HOLD THIS GROUND...
THE SUN ARMY HAS LANDED!
FULL RETREAT!

CH 430 THE SECONDARY STRATEGY INITIATES

TRANSLATOR : MERCURY BLOOD'S
EDITOR : TUDY "ARZACHEL"

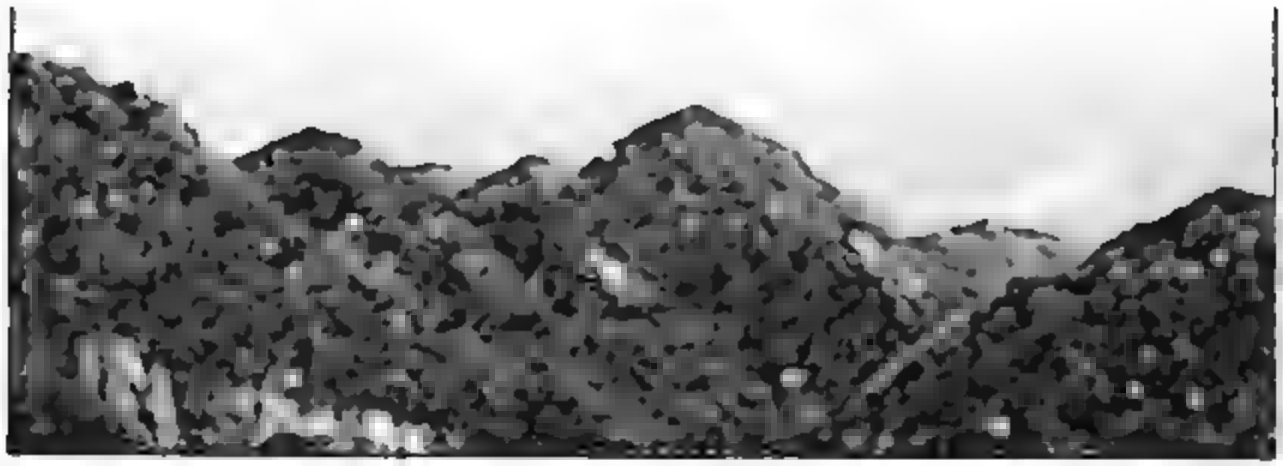
CAO CAO WITHDREW FROM RED CLIFF IN NOVEMBER OF 208 A D



SIR! THE CAO ARMY'S REAR GUARDS HAVE FINALLY PULLED OUT!
THEIR MAIN CAMPS AT RED CLIFF HAVE FALLEN INTO OUR HANDS!
THANKS TO EVERYONE'S HARD WORK

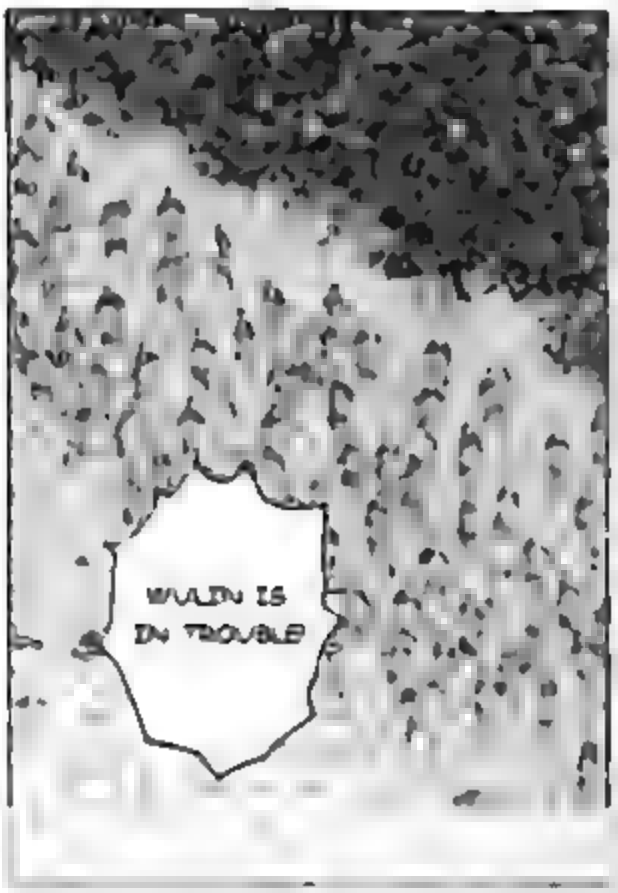
UP FOR MORE FIGHTING, MY BROTHERS OF THE SOUTHEAST?
THE CAO REBELS CONFIDENCE HAS HIT ROCK BOTTOM. THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR US TO EXPAND OUR TERRITORY
SFX HOH~
EXCELLENT! FULL ADVANCE TO KILL THE REBEL CAO!
OUR LORD WILL JOIN THE FIGHT!

FATHER, BROTHER. WE'VE SUCCEEDED
REALLY TRULY SUCCEEDED!



THE LOOKOUTS FROM THE LEFT HILLS HAVE ALSO SENT SIGNAL.

LISTEN UP, WE'RE TO RETREAT!


WULIN IS IN TROUBLE

GENERAL XU, WE'RE RETREATING!

CHU, YOU GO FIRST! I...
NO, I, WON'T GO!
GENERALS, THIS IS NO TIME TO LET EMOTIONS MAKE YOUR DECISION!

IT'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE MORE...
SFX: CKANG-
GENERAL XU!
YES, HE, IS, DONE!

SFX: HOH~
FINISH ME...?
SFX: HOH~
BY THE LIKES OF YOU?

SFX: CLANG~
噹
-LSMOUN-

SFX: CHA-
!
PA

喙
SFX: SHOO~
DIS-
MOUNT
SFX: CHAA~

YOU TOO
SORRY WE'RE LATE!
BROTHER, LOOK!

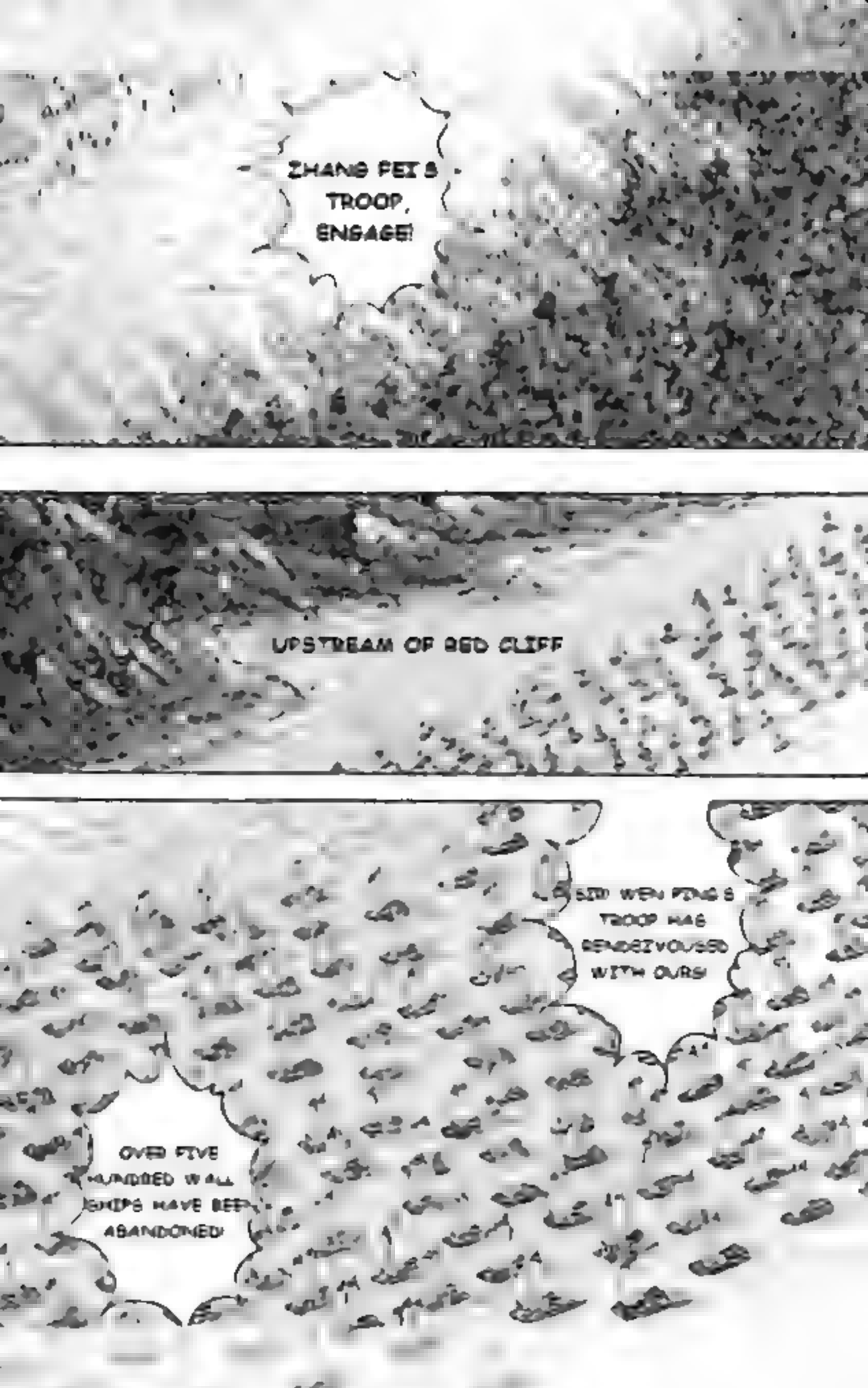
ZI LONG
HOW ARE
YOU FARING?

NO HELP NEEDED. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE TWO MYSELF

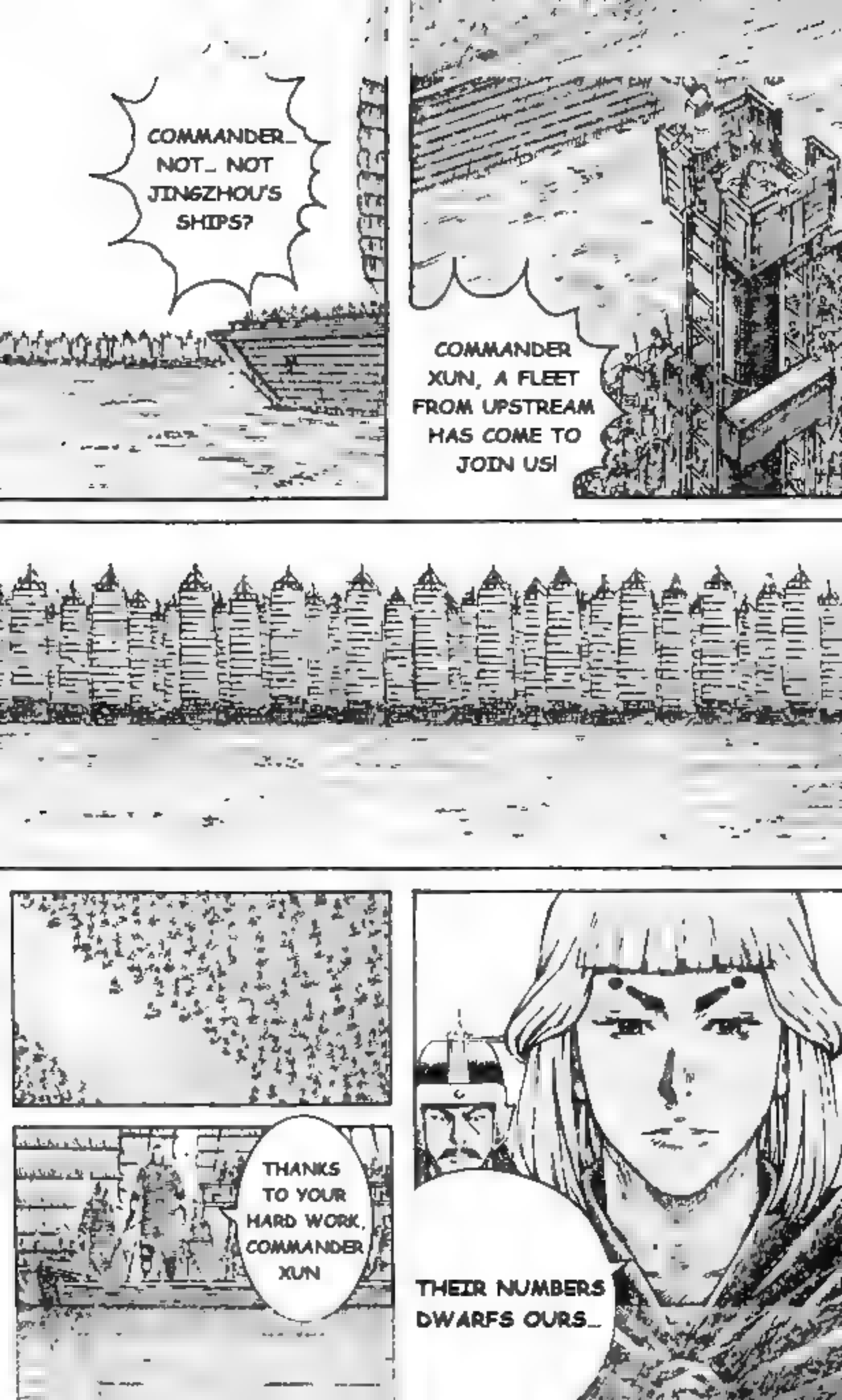
THIRD BROTHER ZI LONG HAS SURPASSED YOU

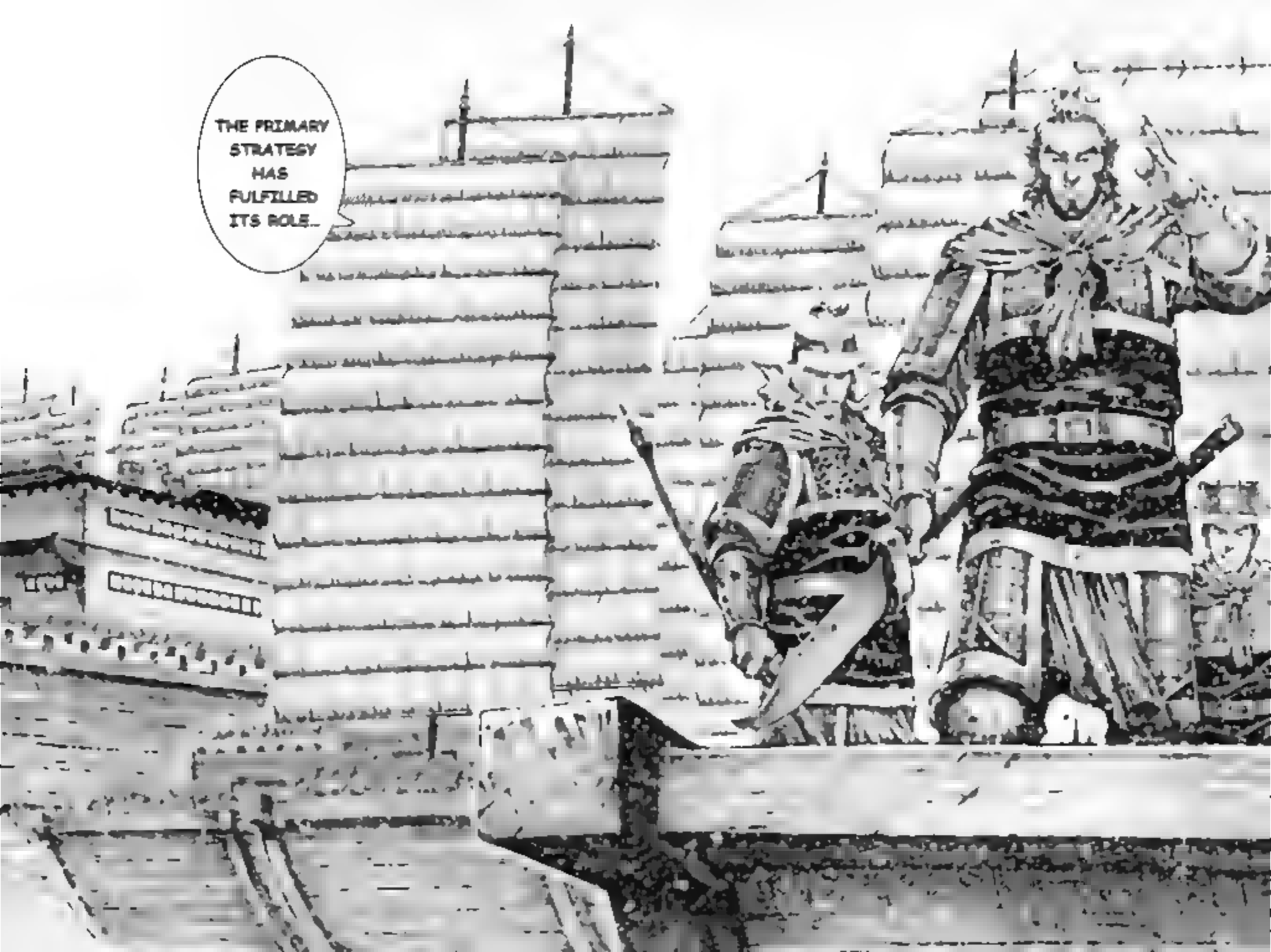
OH YEAH!

AND DAMN IS IT EFFECTIVE!
YOU DARED ME, BIG BROTHER.


ZHANG FEI'S TROOP, ENGAGE!
UPSTREAM OF RED CLIFF
SIR! WEN PING'S TROOP HAS RENDEZVOUSED WITH OURS!
OVER FIVE HUNDRED WALL SHIPS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED!

BUT ADVISOR JIA DID NOT COME WITH THEM!
SIR! JIA XU'S SCATTERED TROOPS FROM THE OTHER SHORE HAVE BEEN PICKED UP AS WELL!
HE MUST HAVE GONE TO JOIN CAO REN
ALTHOUGH IT'S UNLIKELY THAT HIS MEN WOULD BE ABLE TO COUNTER-ATTACK WITH THEIR HIGH CASUALTIES
WHAT A FORMATION OF FLAMES ZHOU YU REALLY IS EXTRAORDINARY


COMMANDER... NOT... NOT JINGZHOU'S SHIPS?
COMMANDER XUN, A FLEET FROM UPSTREAM HAS COME TO JOIN US!
THANKS TO YOUR HARD WORK, COMMANDER XUN
THEIR NUMBERS DWARFS OURS...


THE PRIMARY STRATEGY HAS FULFILLED ITS ROLE...

THE SECONDARY STRATEGY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
BUT REST ASSURED,
下回心■操兵敗如山
下回休刊！
敬請期待

HURRY WITH THE RATIONS WE'RE GETTING PRESSED BY OUR MEN UP NORTH
THE HUNDRED CAO'S WE GATHERED IN A PINCH MUST BE DELIVERED BEFORE NIGHTFALL
WHERE HAS CAO CAO'S MAIN FORCE FALLEN BACK TO?
HEADCOUNT COMPLETE FOR THE FIFTH INFANTRY READY TO MOVE OUT
THEY'RE MOVING SLOWLY TO AVOID A ROUT
HAVE THE WARHORSES ARRIVED YET FOR THE THIRD CAVALRY?

CH 431 RETREAT TO HUARONG

TRANSLATOR : MERCURY BLOOD

EDITOR : YUDY AMZACHEL

YUE JIN AND XIAHOU YUAN'S TROOPS HAVE RETREATED. LÜ MENG SHOULD BE SAFE NOW

THE CAO ARMY LACKS THE MOTIVATION TO FIGHT, AND THEY'RE BEING FORCED TO FALL BACK TO HUARONG

YES. LÜ MENG IS ENGAGING GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST CAO CAO USING MAINLY HIS CAVALRY

HUARONG IS A PATH OF RETREAT, BUT IT MUST BE CROWDED BY THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF NAVAL FORCES

WE MIGHT STILL HAVE TIME

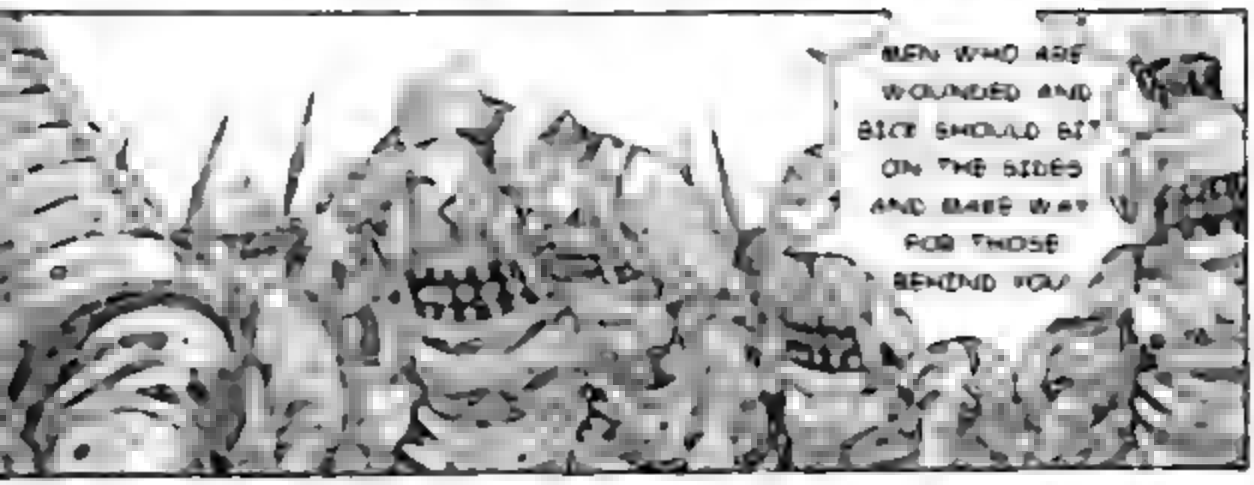
AND GUAN YU HAS HEADED FOR HUARONG AS WELL!
SIR! LIU BEI'S TROOP APPEARED NORTH OF RED CLIFF
ZI JING, YOU LET THEM PASS?
LIU BEI ARRIVED FIRST WE COULD LET THEM TEST CAO CAO'S TRUE STRENGTH

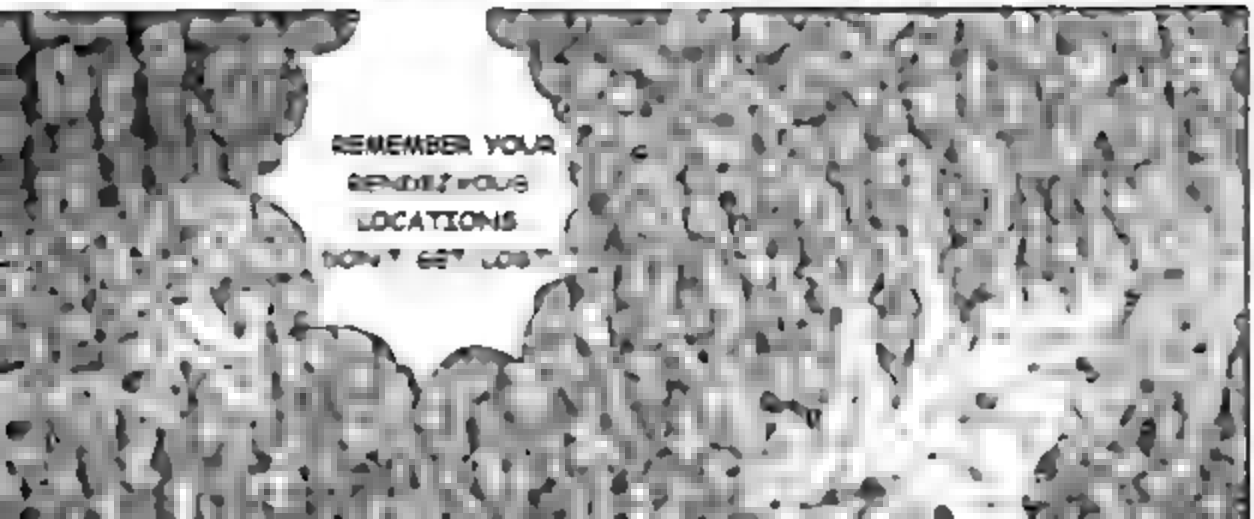
WHAT A MURDEROUS TACTIC, ZI JING

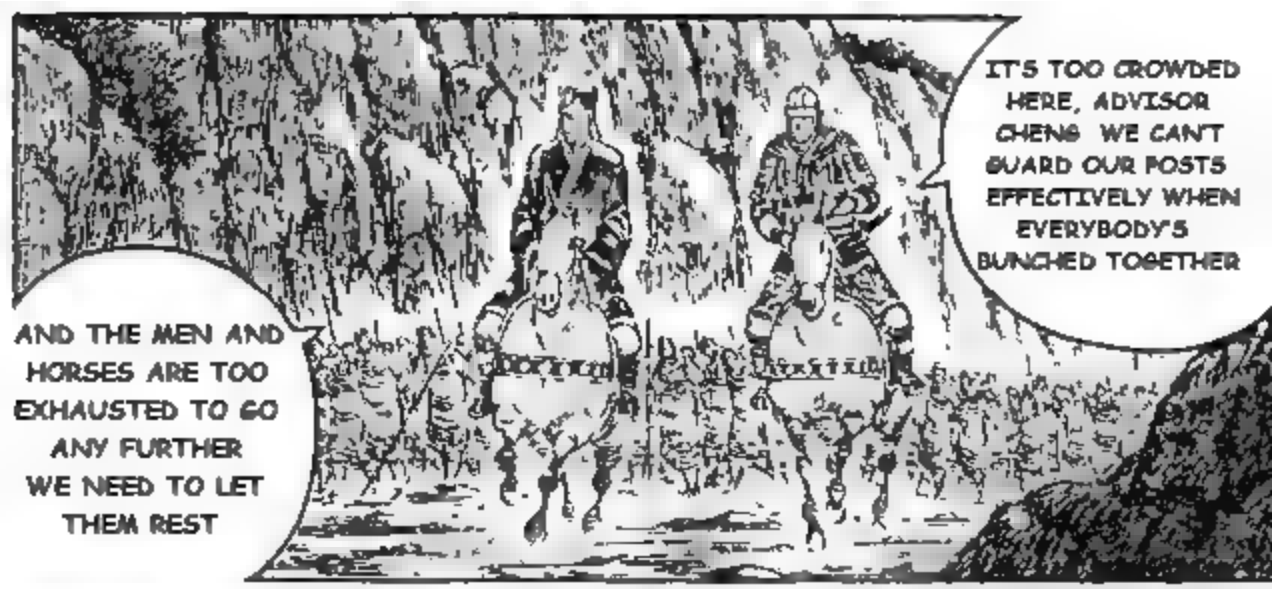
BY NOON ON THE THIRD DAY, THE MAIN FORCE OF THE SUN ARMY HEADED WEST IN PURSUIT OF CAO CAO

FINE. IF LIU BEI WANTS JINGZHOU, LET HIM GO

HURRY UP!
DON'T BLOCK
THE CROSSINGS!


MEN WHO ARE
WOUNDED AND
SICK SHOULD SIT
ON THE SIDES
AND MAKE WAY
FOR THOSE
BEHIND YOU


REMEMBER YOUR
BENDIS' YOUR
LOCATIONS
DON'T GET LOST


IT'S TOO CROWDED HERE, ADVISOR CHENG WE CAN'T GUARD OUR POSTS EFFECTIVELY WHEN EVERYBODY'S BUNCHED TOGETHER
AND THE MEN AND HORSES ARE TOO EXHAUSTED TO GO ANY FURTHER WE NEED TO LET THEM REST

NO. THE ENTIRE ARMY MUST BE OUT OF HUARONG PATH BY TOMORROW

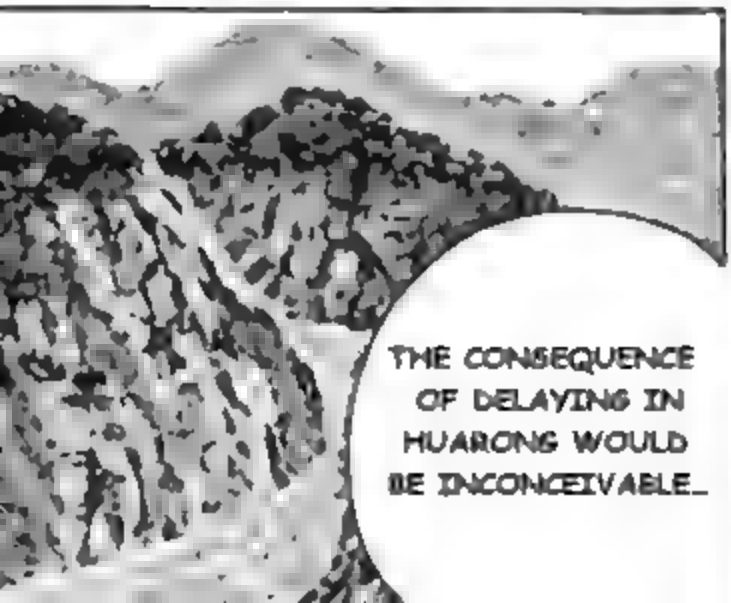
IMPOSSIBLE CAO REN IS STILL AT YUZHANG WHY WOULD SUN QUAN RISK COMING HERE?

SURELY A BLUFF BY THE ENEMY

ADVISOR CHENG, WE HEAR NEWS OF SUN QUAN ARRIVING TOO

THE RETREAT AND THE CRUMBLING MORALE HAVE MADE OUR MEN FEAR THEIR OWN SHADOWS

RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD BELIEVE NOTHING EXCEPT PRESERVING OUR STRENGTH


THE CONSEQUENCE OF DELAYING IN HUARONG WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE...

YES. I'VE ALSO JUST HEARD THAT YUAN SHAO'S REMAINING FACTIONS WERE HEADING FOR THE CAPITOL

IN THIS VALLEY, WE'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE EASTERLY WIND UP NORTH...

吁休

I HOPE IT WON'T BE TOO LATE...

PA

MY LORD, IS THIS A TRAINING EXERCISE?
STOP THAT NONSENSE!

I'M WILLING TO SAY THAT AGAIN IF IT'S ENOUGH TO CALM THE TROOPS...

THE BREEZE IS PICKING UP, MY LORD PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN I'M AT WIT'S END AS THINGS STAND NOW
BUT ONE NEEDS A BREEZE TO BECOME SOBER AGAIN
IT'S AS IF THE LARGER FORCE PICKING ON A SMALLER ENEMY WILL MISS OUT "STRATEGICALLY"
IN OUR CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE YELLOW TURBANS, DONG ZHUO, ZHANG XIU, AND YUAN SHAO,
YES... I HAVE FORGOTTEN
OUR WEAKER NUMBERS MEANT WE HAD TO RELY ON STRATEGY TO WIN

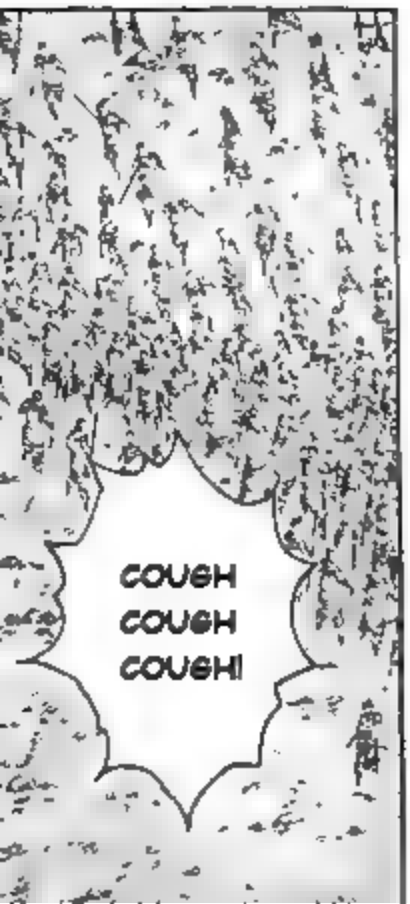
UNDERESTI-
MATING
THE ENEMY
IS THE DEADLIEST
WEAKNESS OF
THE LARGER FORCE
IN A CONFLICT
MY LORD!

JIA XU'S REPORT SAYS OUR TROOP AT YUZHANG HAS BEEN ROUTED AND ARE TOO WEAK FOR MORE FIGHTING!
CAO REN'S ROUTED TROOP IS RETREATING SOUTHWARD
WE_ WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO KEEP SUN QUAN IN CHECK!

DOESN'T THAT BOOST THEIR ARMY'S STRENGTH!
THEN... THEN SUN QUAN REALLY DID CROSS THE RIVER!
PA
MY LORD!

WE'VE LOST THE LONG RIVER WITH OUR COMMUNICATIONS BLOCKED.
SUMMON THE IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN!
WE MUST IMMEDIATELY MOVE OUT OF THE HUARONG PATH!
THE EASTERLY WIND IS STILL BLOWING THE ENEMY WILL TRY TO BURN US, AND WE CANNOT POSSIBLY MOVE FASTER THAN THE WIND.
HOWEVER... WE LACKED ONE PERSON
YES... MORE MEN AND MORE ADVANTAGES...

IF ONLY GUO JIA IS STILL WITH US_


COUGH COUGH COUGH!

GUO_ COUGH, COUGH COUGH!

MY LORD, DON'T GRIEVE TO HARD!
GUO... COUGH COUGH COUGH!
HAS THE IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN ARRIVED?
EXAMINE OUR LORD, HURRY!
OH NO, OUR LORD TALKED WITH OLD ZHANG RECENTLY,
WHO WAS FINE BUT THEN YESTER-DAY HE... MIGHT'VE...
YOUR FOREHEAD IS BURNING, MY LORD...

CAUGHT...
CAUGHT
THE PLAGUE.
下回・仙人指路
下回預告
敬請期待

火風燎原

TINDER'S LIT!

熊

LIGHT UP!

TROOPS! FORM TWO LINES TO LIGHT YOUR TORCHES! GO!

火鳳燎原

仙人指路

★《火鳳燎原》第四集制作，永平網盡

CH 432 BY THE IMMORTAL'S GUIDANCE

TRANSLATOR: HYDN BLOOD'S
EDITOR: YUDT
★《仙人指路》全1集，敬請期待

FROM HERE ON OUT WE'LL MAKE OURSELVES A PATH OF FIRE!

BE CERTAIN OF THE FIRE'S DIRECTION, MY BROTHERS!

LET'EM BURN!

THEY MUST ALL POINT TOWARD CAO CAO!

WHO'S FASTER, *CAO CAO*?
YOU OR THE WIND!

GENERAL!

BOSS, WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING TO DO?

NO, PICK UP THE PACE!

LŪ MENG'S TROOP RIGHT BEHIND US HAS STOPPED PURSUING!

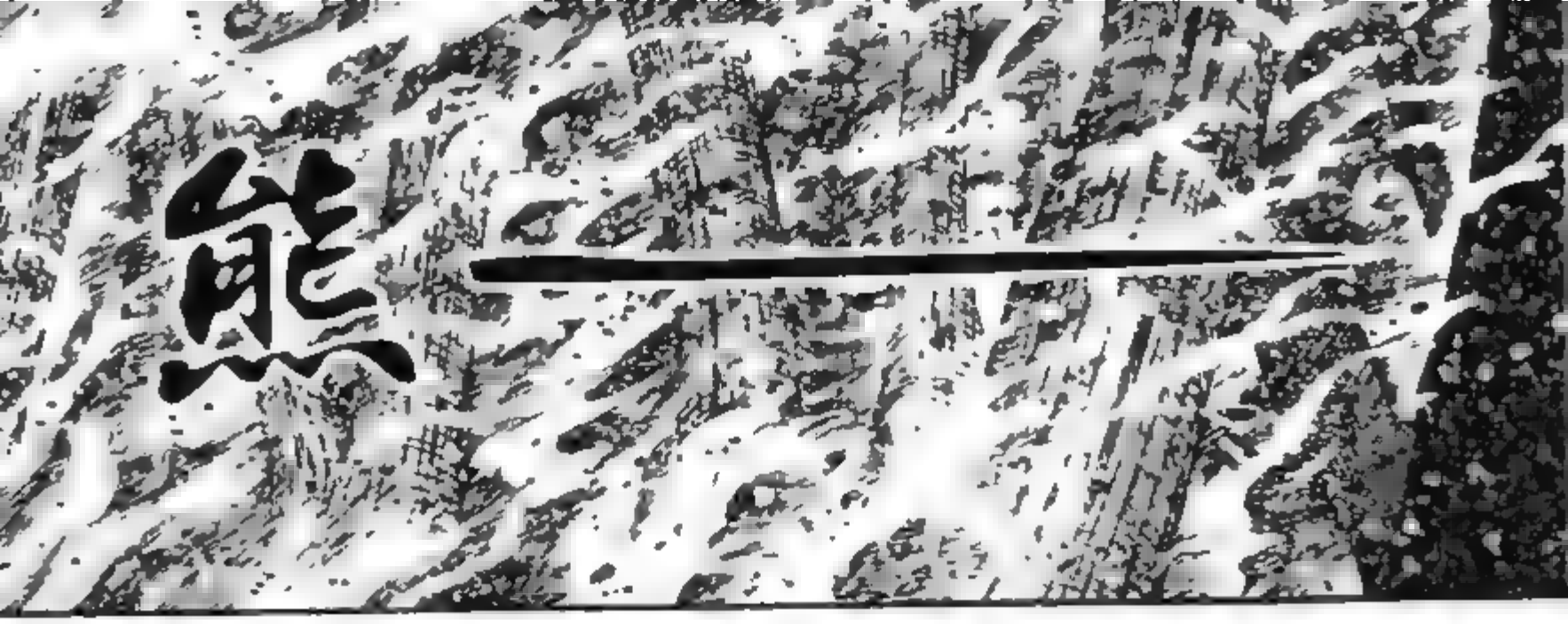
NO

IF THE ENEMY WON'T ADVANCE, GENERAL, WE SHOULD MAKE A STAND HERE.

OR SET AN AMBUSH IN THE WOODS AHEAD

OUR ENEMY IS NO LONGER LŪ MENG.

GENERAL YUE IS RIGHT. LOOK, EVERYONE!



THE WIND BLEW HARDER BY DUSK ON THE THIRD DAY. GENERAL LÜ MENG OF THE SUN ARMY STARTED BURNING THE WOODS BEHIND HUARONG

THE ARCING NATURE OF THE HUARONG PATH HINDERED THE RETREAT OF CAO CAO'S ARMY. AND THANKS TO THE WIND GUST, THE FIRE IS CATCHING UP DOUBLY FAST

THE ENEMY IS ENLARGING THE SCOPE OF THE FIRE

LOOK, THE FIRE HAS CAUGHT UP TO GENERAL YUE JIN'S TROOP!

EVERYONE HURRY AND MOVE OUT OF THE GORGE!

ONLY A FEW LI LEFT. HURRY!

SIR! FOUR TROOPS FROM THE REAR HAS FALLEN BEHIND!

MASTER HONG, IS OUR LORD...

DON'T WORRY. THE PHYSICIANS ARE TENDING TO HIM

I HAVE SENT MEN TO FEND OFF THE ARSONISTS NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE GORGE. THERE MIGHT STILL BE ENOUGH TIME FOR A RETREAT

PLEASE REMAIN AT YOUR POSTS, EVERYONE. DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, ROCK OUR MORALE

THE ENEMY TROOP IS NOW THE FEARSOME FIRE

I WAS LOOKING FOR HIM TOO. HE WAS HERE YESTERDAY,

HAS DOCTOR MA ARRIVED?

BUT NOW HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND

GENERALS, HERE ARE YOUR ORDERS...

THAT'S WEIRD. HOW COULD ALL THE PHYSICIANS HAVE DISAPPEARED?

THE ENEMY IS BEHIND US THE FIRE… FEARSOME…

NO MATTER WHAT, SAVE… THE MAIN FORCE

COUGH… COUSH COUSH COUGH… COUGH!

COUGH… COUGH… LET THEM WITHDRAW FIRST…

AND HAS PI-ER_ WITHDRAWN?
XIAHOU YUAN, AND... ON THE OTHER SHORE..
WHERE_ WHERE IS HE?
MY LORD WE'VE TEMPORARILY LOST CONTACT WITH YOUNG MASTER
WHERE IS CAO REN ON THE OTHER SHORE?

LOOKS LIKE DOCTOR MA HASN'T ARRIVED YET

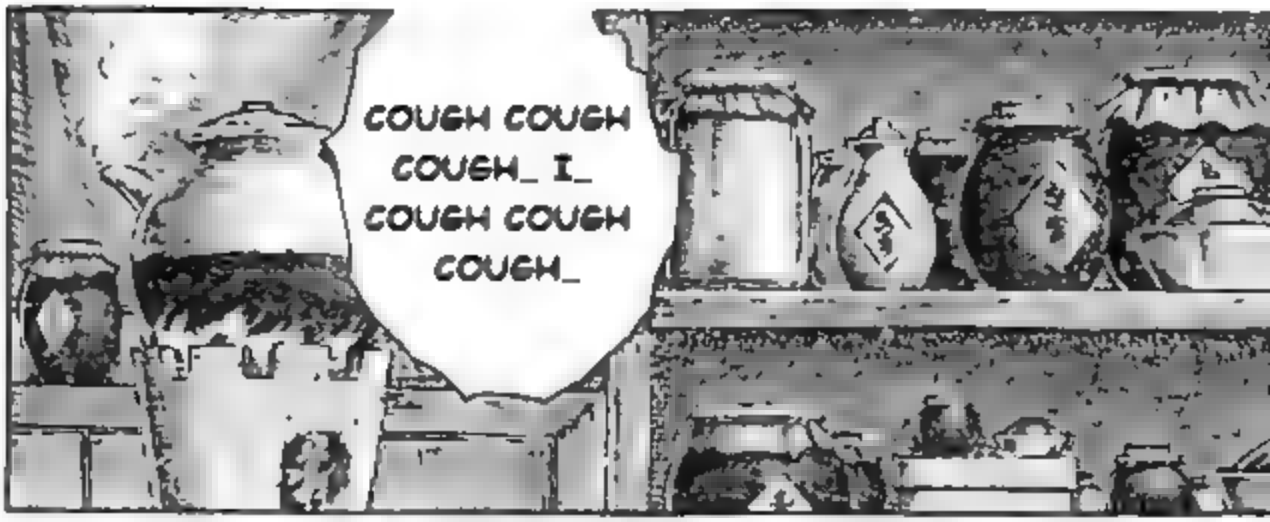
YOU'RE SICK, MY LORD. I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP
THE TEMPE- RATURE IS FALLING. THIS FIRE... IS TOO SMALL

熊

BONES

HOW DO YOU FEEL, MY LORD?

THESE BONES HURT ME SO. AND_ AND_ COUGH_


COUGH COUGH COUGH_ I_ COUGH COUGH COUGH_

WHO_ WHO DOESN'T?

NOW_ I FINALLY UNDERSTAND LŪ BU'S WORDS_

DO YOU FEAR DEATH, MY LORD?

LOFTY GOALS LEAD TO A FEAR OF NOT ACCOMPLISHING THEM_
BEFORE DEATH_ COUGH COUGH COUGH_

HAVE YOU A REMEDY, GREAT SAINT?

THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR

HE SAID THERE IS A CURE, AND HE'S ON HIS WAY!
GOOD NEWS! WE FOUND DOCTOR HUA TUO!
MY LORD ALL OF OUR SICK WILL RECEIVE TREATMENT!
THAT'S GREAT NEWS, AH-MAN!

BY HEAVEN'S WILL
GREAT NEWS FOR YOU, MY LORD, BUT BAD NEWS TO THE ENEMY
HOWEVER, HUA TUO...

IS ALSO BAD NEWS FOR YOU, MY LORD
BECAUSE THE FASTER HE TRIES TO REACH YOU
THE FASTER I MUST TAKE ACTION-
PA

TO ELIMINATE A TRAITOR FOR THE WORLD

YOU SEE, I AM THE INSIDER-
ONE WHOSE JOB IS TO AVENGE THE YUAN CLAN
AND YOU ALL

SHOULD GO SEEK LORD YUAN'S JUDGMENT IN THE UNDER-WORLD!

下回：

LOOK, A FIFTH BONFIRE BY THE SUN ARMY!

YES. THEY'VE ALREADY FALLEN WITHOUT EVEN BEING STRUCK

AS YOU SAY, MASTER, THE MOST POWERFUL METHOD OF WAR

THE SMOKE ALONE IS THREATENING ENOUGH LET ALONE THE FIRE ONCE IT CATCHES UP. THIS PROBING ATTACK HAS DONE ITS JOB

WITHIN THAT NARROW PATH, THIS MASSIVE WALL OF SMOKE MAKES THE CAO ARMY FEAR ITS OWN SHADOWS

CH 433 OMNIPOTENT

TRANSLATOR : MERCURY BLOOD'S

EDITOR : YUDY ALAN

火鳳燎原

群兵傳

第四百一回

無所不能

IS TO SUBDUE THE ENEMY WITHOUT A FIGHT

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■協力 阿 石

鄧偉

GONG JIN HAS CERTAINLY EMPLOYED DECEPTION IN WARFARE TO ITS MAXIMUM EFFECT

HAHA, SO YOU STILL INSIST ON THIS THEORY

PARDON ME, BUT HOW DOES THAT WORK?

THERE'S A REASON WHY MASTER REFUSES TO TEACH THIS

BUT I'D SAY A TYPE OF EXTREME MIND CONTROL IS THE MOST POWERFUL

YES. THERE ARE IRREVERSIBLE CONSEQUENCES WHEN IT'S EXECUTED SUCCESSFULLY

YES. TOO EVIL. NEVER LEARN IT, AND NEVER TEACH IT

THIS SCHOOL OF THOUGHT IS POWERFUL, NO DOUBT, BUT LEAVES LONG LASTING ILL EFFECTS

SO IT STAYS WITH THE PERSON AND CAN NEVER BE EXORCIZED?

IT'S FUNNY HOW THE WISEST MEN, DEVOTING THEIR ENTIRE LIFE TO ITS STUDY, COULD ONLY GAIN A SUPERFICIAL UNDERSTANDING

AND YET THIS SUPERFICIAL UNDERSTANDING BECOMES A LIFE'S GOAL FOR THE COMMON MAN

SO... WHICH SCHOOL OF THOUGHT IS IT?

MIND CONTROL AT ITS EXTREME, THE MOST POWERFUL METHOD OF WAR...

EVIL CULT

THOSE WHO COULD ESTABLISH A CULT ARE ALL MASTERS OF ITS ESSENCE

THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND HAVE LIVED THROUGH CHAOS FOR TOO LONG. THE RELENTLESS MISERY MADE THEIR SPIRITS FRAGILE

OUR LAND HAS YET TO BE CLEANSED OF THE SEED OF TROUBLE THAT THE CULT OF SUPREME PEACE HAS PLANTED

AND UNDER RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM, PEOPLE LOSE THEMSELVES TO ITS COMMAND

HOWEVER, EIGHTH, WHY DID YOU ASK THIS?

YES. EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THEY ARE STILL TAKING ROOTS EVERYWHERE

WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT IT WILL PASS ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION UNTIL IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO UPROOT

BECAUSE IN THIS BATTLE, THERE IS ONE SUCH EXPERT

WITHIN *CAO CAO'S CAMP*

A CHAOTIC TIME LIKE THIS IS HIS PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO EMPLOY HIS METHOD OF WAR

AND YOU KNOW THIS KIND OF MEN WOULD NEVER TAKE ON A RANK OF A LOWLY MILITARY ADVISER

A GRANDER,

MORE AMBITIOUS TITLE...

THEY WOULD GRANT THEMSELVES ANOTHER TITLE INSTEAD

AND THEIR METHOD OF WAR
IS THAT OF PERFORMING MIRACLES!
IMMORTAL
仙人

LET GO OF MY LORD YOU WITCH!

WH... WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?

SFX: PONG~

MUTINY?

DIE, ZUO CI!

嚓

DONG WU, WHY'RE YOU TAKING DOWN YOUR OWN MEN?

LU YANG, YOU...

WHY'RE THE REST OF YOU JUST STANDING THERE, WHY DON'T...

WHY DON'T...

SO THE IMMORTAL

MUST INCREASE "DOSAGE" ON THE FIRE

CAO HONG SURE IS STRONG-WILLED

DON'T BREATHE IN THAT SMOKE, CAO HONG. IT'LL MAKE YOU...

SFX: SHOOM~

LISTEN TO MY COMMAND, EVERYONE

KILL
ZUO CI

TOO MANY ZUO CI...

YE... YES...

YOU HURT MY LORD, WITCH, YOU DIE!

TH... THEY'RE KILLING EACH OTHER IN THE TENT!

WHAT DO WE DO?

嚓

LOOK, THE RECORD KEEPER HAS COME OUT!

ARE WE HELPING THE XIAHOU CLAN OR THE CAO CLAN?

NO, EVEN THOSE UP NORTH HAVE STARTED TO KILL!

WH... WHAT HAPPENED OUT HERE? YOU'RE ALL ZUO CI?

D_ DIE, THE LOT OF YOU!

RECORD KEEPER, YOU_ YOU_

THE MEN HAVE GONE MADI MADI

CHAOS DRIVES FEAR AND FEAR DRIVES CHAOS; A VICIOUS CYCLE...

GUILT WILL SURFACE IN THE AFTERMATH. AND THEN...

DON'T WORRY, I'LL SEND REINFORCEMENTS

LET ONE'S FOUL DEEDS EAT HIM ALIVE

REMEMBER THAT YOUR MAIN FORCE, THE QINGZHOU REGIMENT_

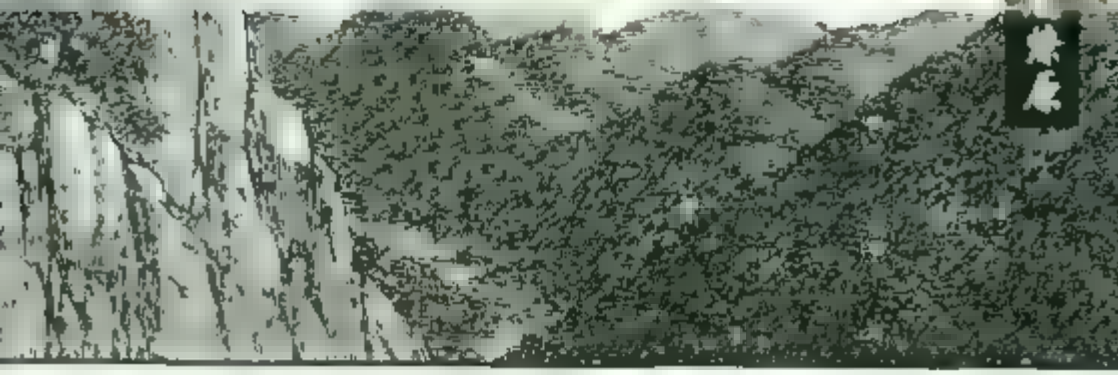
USED TO BE FOLLOWERS OF SUPREME PEACE

TRAITOR CAO,

BEAR WITNESS
TO MY MIRACLE!

下回：孔明初顯神威

AFTER THE PRIMARY STRATEGY COMES THE SECONDARY



CAO CAO WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED TO LOSE AT RED CLIFF WITH HIS ARMY OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND STRONG
NOR WOULD HE HAVE EXPECTED THAT THE REAL SLAUGHTER HAPPENS DURING HIS RETREAT

CHAPTER 434 RIVALING RED CLIFF

TRANSLATOR : MERCURY BLOOD'S
EDITOR : YUDY EZEKIEL DOANE

火鳳燎原 第四十一部 卜卦赤壁

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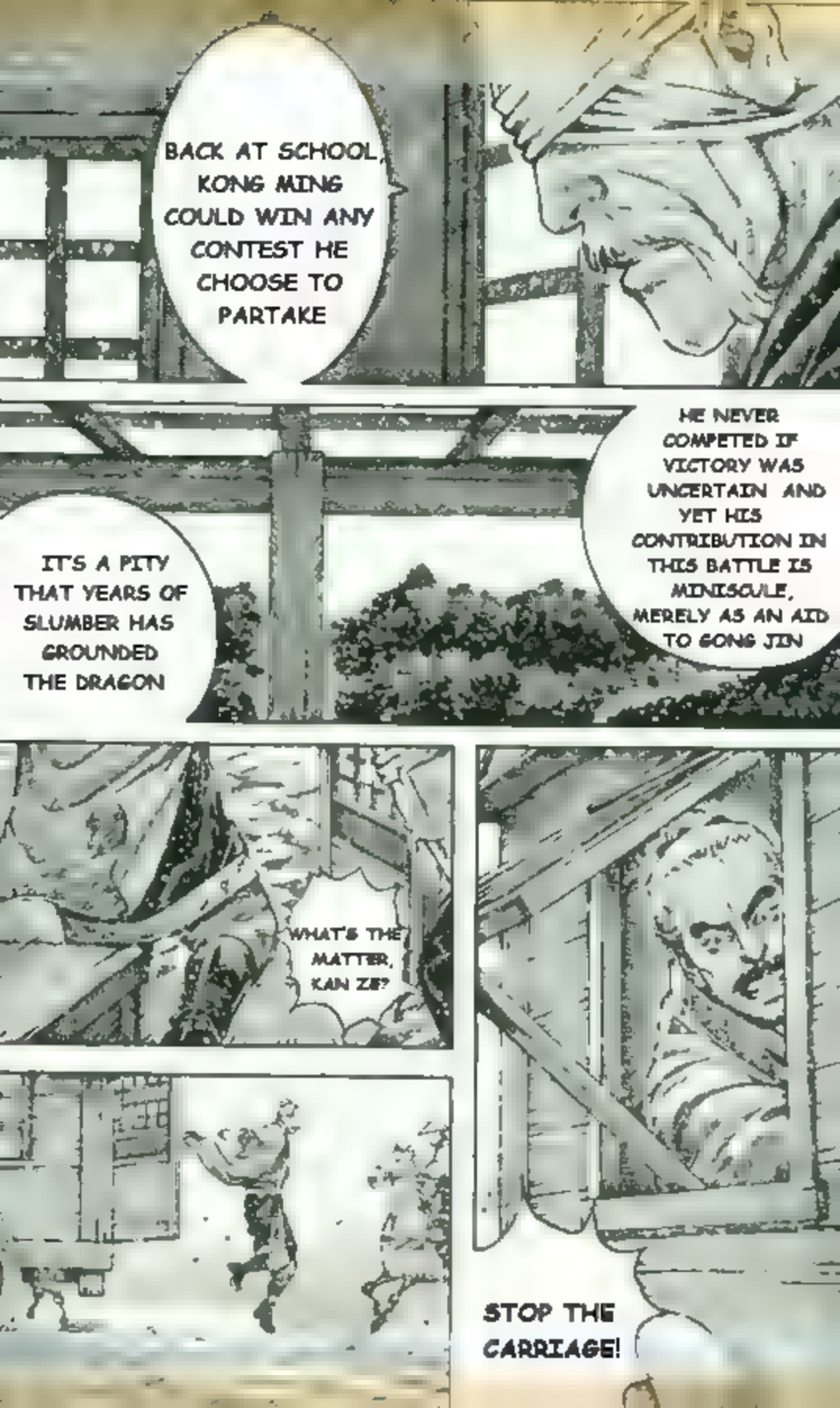

BACK AT SCHOOL, KONG MING COULD WIN ANY CONTEST HE CHOOSE TO PARTAKE
HE NEVER COMPETED IF VICTORY WAS UNCERTAIN AND YET HIS CONTRIBUTION IN THIS BATTLE IS MINISCULE, MERELY AS AN AID TO GONG JIN
IT'S A PITY THAT YEARS OF SLUMBER HAS GROUNDED THE DRAGON
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAN ZE?
STOP THE CARRIAGE!

HUFF!
HUFF!
CAREFUL, MASTER KAN!
SO IT IS!
A SUNSHADE MADE OF SMOKE, WHAT A GUISE!

BRILLIANT, ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!
I... FINALLY UNDERSTAND!
WHY HAS CHIEF CONTROLLER ZHOU HALTED HIS TROOP?
WHY HAS THE FORWARD FLANK STOPPED THE ADVANCE?
KEEP MOVING, DON'T BLOCK THE PATH!

MY LORD, CHIEF CONTROLLER ZHOU ORDERED HIS MEN TO TAKE A REST
IF WE STOP, MY LORD, IT'LL ONLY BENEFIT LIU BEI'S TROOP
BUT CAO CAO HAS LOST HIS MIND TO THE FIRE, AND HIS MEN TO DESERTION
LOOKS LIKE THEY WILL BE SEIZING THE SUPPLIES LEFT BEHIND BY THE FLEEING ARMY
IT WON'T TAKE MUCH TO MAKE THEM CRUMBLE. I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND...

MY LORD, THE TROOP AHEAD OF US IS HEADING WEST!
TAKE IT EASY, EVERYONE THE CHIEF CONTROLLER MUST HAVE HIS REASONS
THE CHIEF CONTROLLER IS CHANGING ROUTE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WH.. WHAT'S HE DOING?
MY LORD,
WE'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, HENCE THE SUDDEN CHANGE

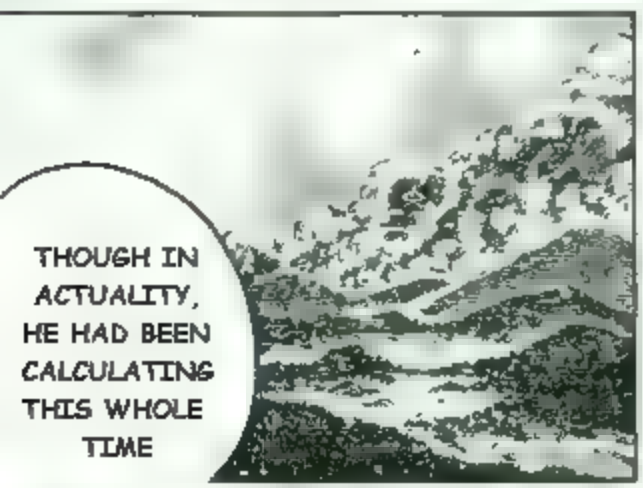
BY CHIEF CONTROLLER'S ORDER, WE ARE TO FIRST TAKE JIANGLING

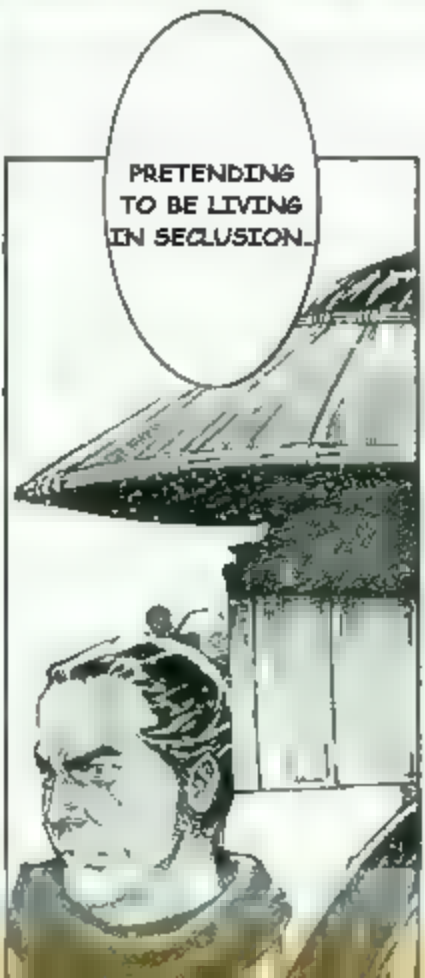
WHAT? JIANGLING FIRST?
AND THEN WE ADVANCE FROM JIANGLING?
WITH CAO CAO'S MAIN FORCE ON THE RUN, IT'S THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO REIN IN THE CHAOS AT JIANGLING
YES THE CIRCUM-STANCES CHANGED
THAT MEANS_

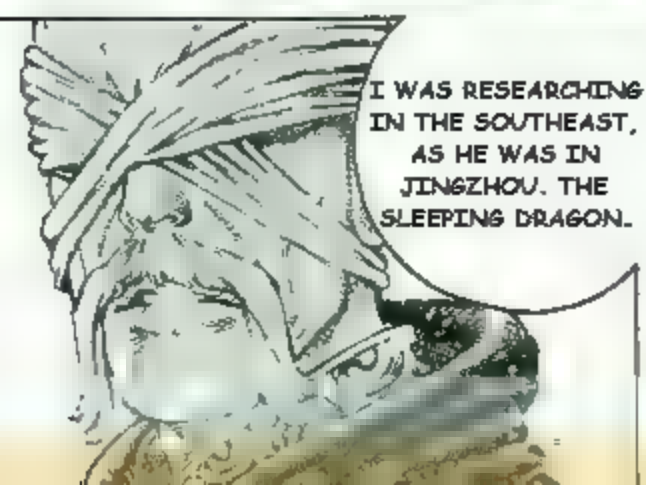
BECAUSE WE ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS A SCHEME THAT NO COMMON MAN COULD PULL OFF!
AND THAT SCHEMER IS...
HOW... COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN...
MY LORD, OUR SECONDARY STRATEGY IS IN MOTION

ELEVEN YEARS AGO... NEAR THE END OF THE FOURTEENTH YEAR...
EXACTLY FULL CYCLE
THE RARE EASTERLY WIND- SOMETHING THAT I'VE ALREADY PREDICTED
BUT I'VE ONLY BEEN FOCUSING ON THE REGION NEAR RED CLIFF

WHILE KONG MING WAS AT JING..


THOUGH IN ACTUALITY, HE HAD BEEN CALCULATING THIS WHOLE TIME


PRETENDING TO BE LIVING IN SECLUSION..


I WAS RESEARCHING IN THE SOUTHEAST, AS HE WAS IN JINGZHOU. THE SLEEPING DRAGON.

THE SLEEPING DRAGON IS ABOUT TO MAKE A MOVE. THESE ELEVEN YEARS...
TO HIM... WERE NEVER A DAY WASTED!

THE DRAGON IS NOW ON HIGHER GROUND, WAITING QUIETLY FOR THIS MOMENT
SIR, ALL TROOPS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE HILLS
EXCELLENT

LOOK AT THOSE CLOUDS
THE WEATHER IS CHANGING
BLOW

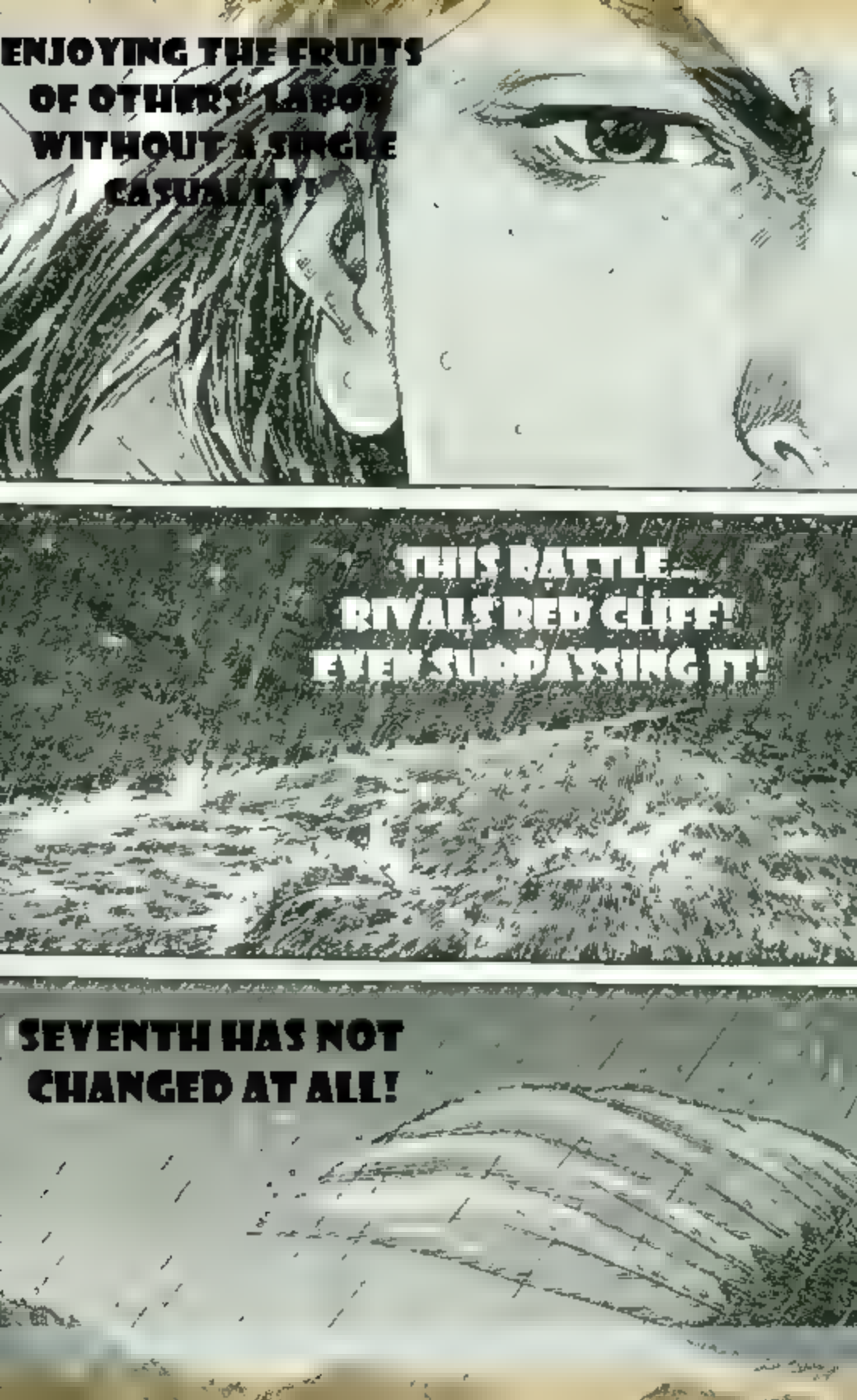
SHA
RAIN_
IT'S RAINING!

SECOND MASTER, LOOK! THEY'RE COMING!
COME

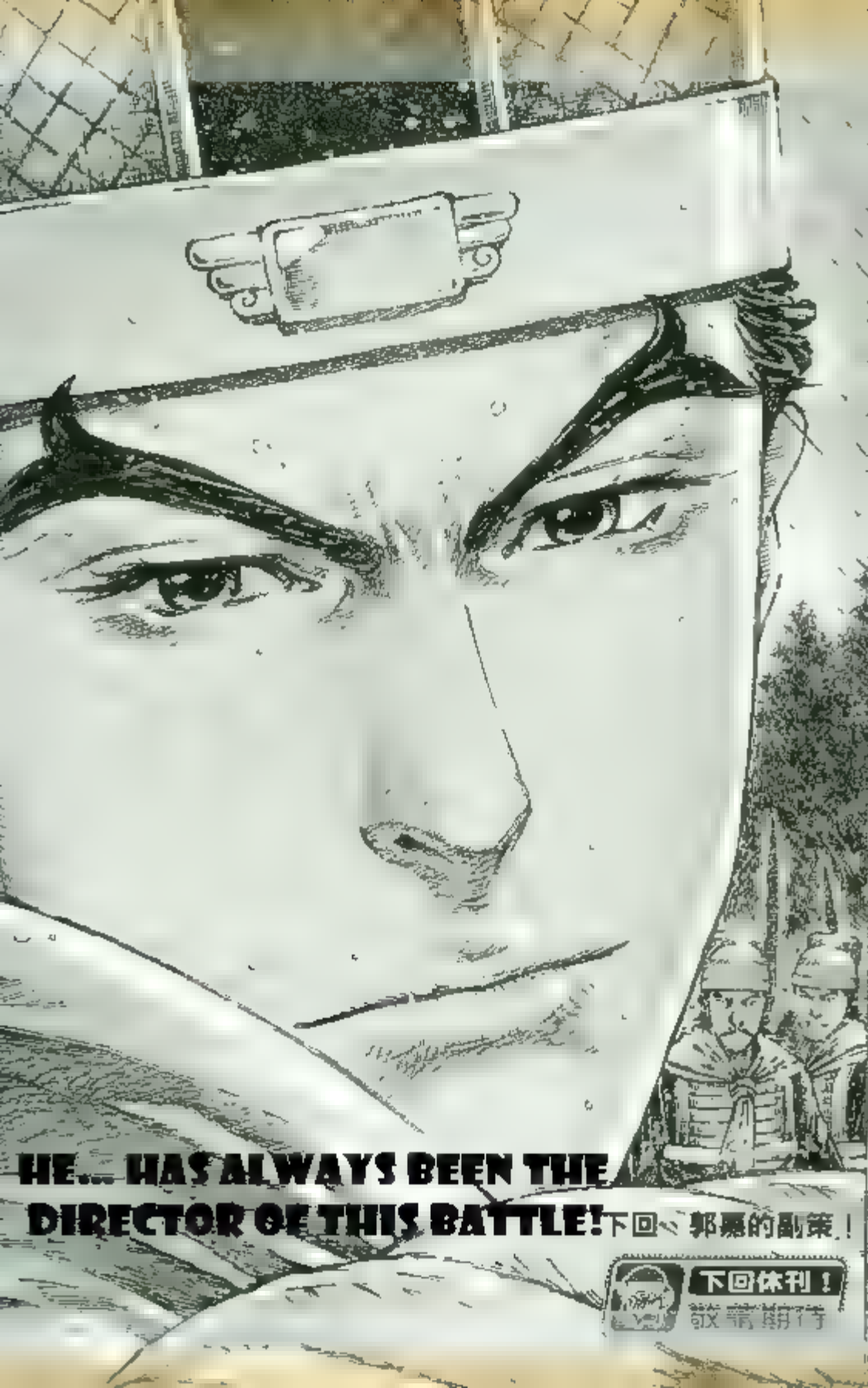
THE HUA-RONG PATH IS LOWLAND TERRAIN
AND THE FINAL NAIL IN CAO CAO'S COFFIN ISN'T OUR FIRE, BUT HIS FLOOD

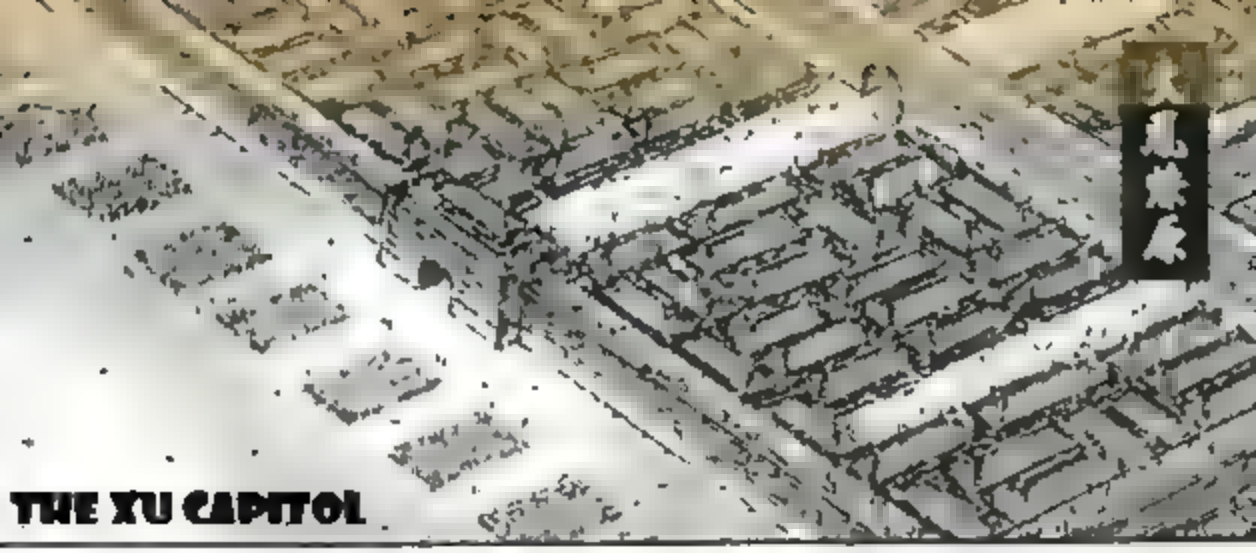
JINGZHOU'S WEATHER ENTERS A CYCLIC
PATTERN EVERY ELEVEN YEARS.
A FLOOD IN AUGUST ALWAYS MEANT
THE COMING OF EASTERLY WIND IN NOVEMBER
AND IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY
AN UNMANAGEABLE DOWNPOUR...

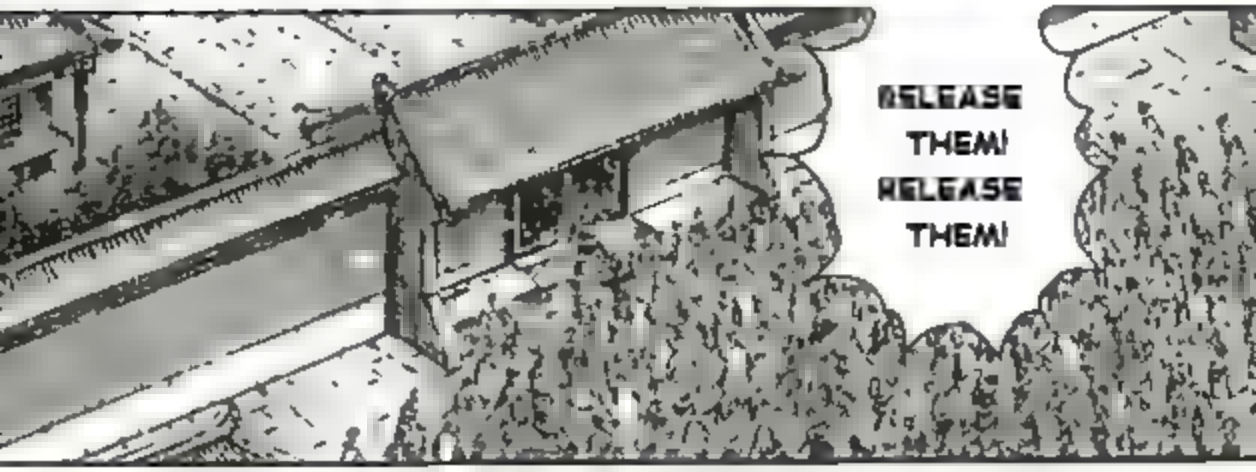
WE'RE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE PATH, AND WE WOULD BE TRAPPED LIKE CAO CAO IF WE WERE TO ADVANCE ANY FURTHER
RIGHT NOW LIU BEI'S TROOPS ARE ON A HIGHER GROUND
OUR ONLY OPTION NOW IS TO DETOUR TOWARD JIANGLING
TO CAPTURE CAO CAO ALIVE
THEY ONLY NEED TO WATCH FOR AN OPPOR-TUNITY_


ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF OTHERS' LABOR WITHOUT A SINGLE CASUALTY!
THIS BATTLE... RIVALS RED CLIFF! EVEN SURPASSING IT!
SEVENTH HAS NOT CHANGED AT ALL!

AND HALF OF THE WORLD
WILL FALL INTO HIS HANDS!


HE... HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF THIS BATTLE!
下回、郭嘉的副策！
下回休刊！
敬請期待


THE XU CAPITOL


RELEASE THEM! RELEASE THEM!

DON'T BE RECKLESS SECRETARIAT XUN SAID THEY WERE INSIDERS

KA

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, XUN?
RELEASE YOUNG MASTER PI'S PEOPLE!

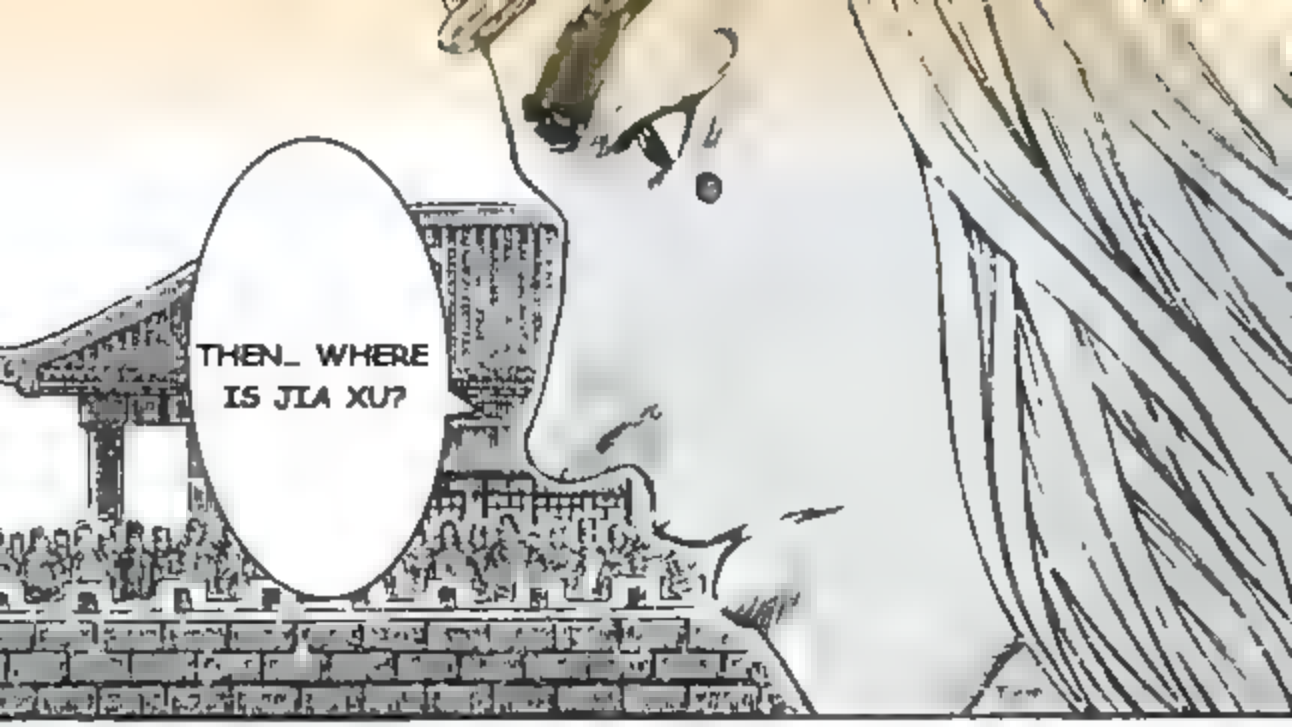
CH 435 ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FACE OF DANGER

TRANSLATOR : MERCURY BLOOD'S
EDITOR : YUDY ARZACHEL

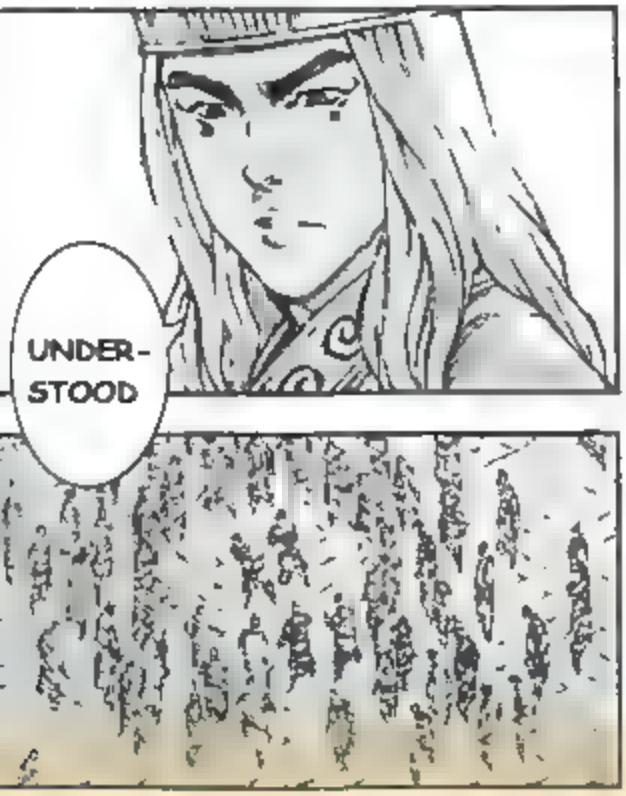
WHERE ARE THEY?
THEY LEFT THEIR TROOPS OUTSIDE,
IN THE CARE OF THE CAO CLAN!
SECRETARIAT, IT'S UNUSUAL THAT THE CAO CLAN WOULD INTERFERE. DO_ DO YOU THINK_

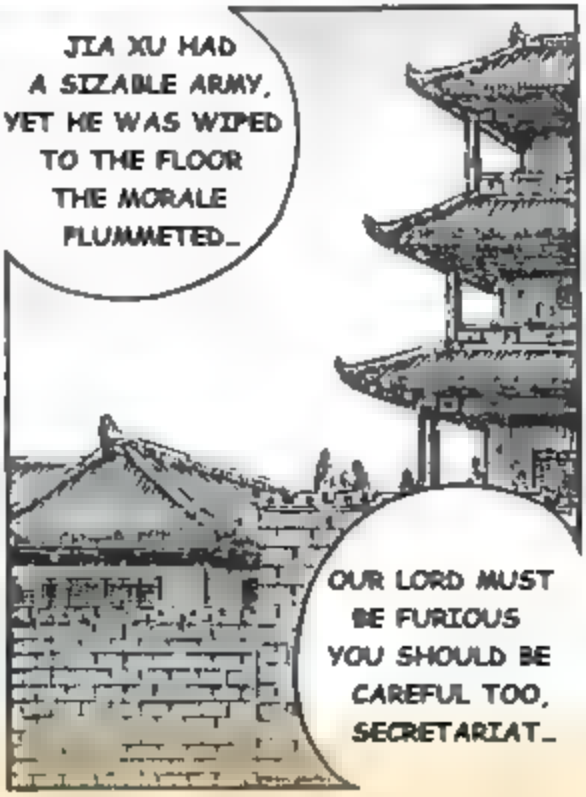
SECRETARIAT XUN, WE RECEIVED NO NEWS OF OUR LORD'S DEFEAT,
SINCE NEWS BY MESSENGER PIGEONS WERE LATE BY TWO FULL DAYS
YES BUT IT'S NOT CLEAR WHO DID IT
THAT MEANS SOMEONE HAS BEEN HIDING SAID NEWS ON PURPOSE?

XUN, WE WERE ORDERED TO TRANSFER GARRISONED MEN IN THE NORTH TO JING. WHY DID YOU SEND MEN TO STOP US?
FINE! WE'LL TURN OURSELVES IN AND LET OUR LORD BE THE FINAL JUDGE!
THAT'S RIGHT YOU'D BULLY US BECAUSE WE SURRENDERED TO YOU IN THE PAST? THINK AGAIN!
IF THAT'S TRUE SECRETARIAT XUN,
I FEAR THAT WE WOULD'VE HINDERED JINGZHOU'S DEFENSE!

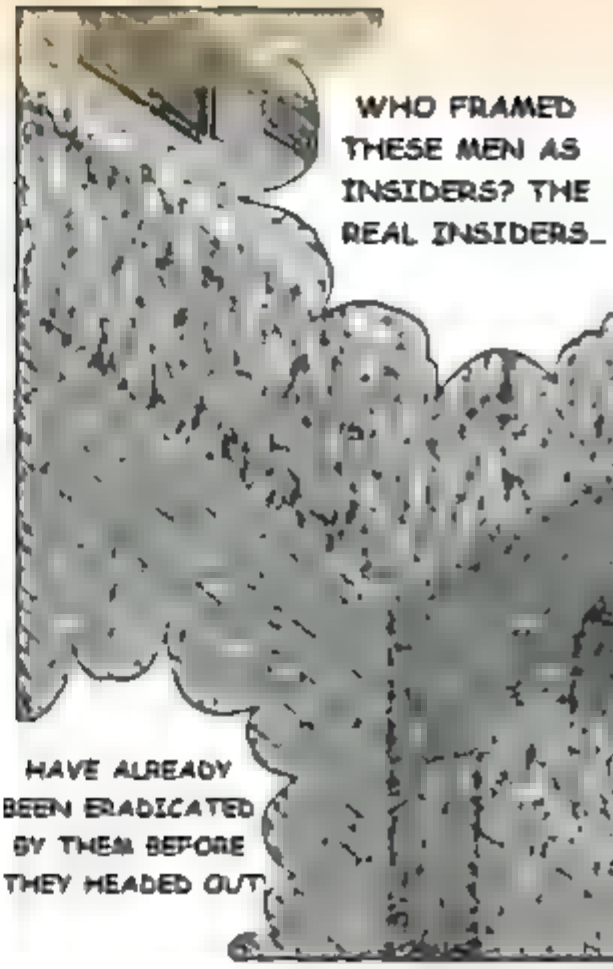

THEN... WHERE IS JIA XU?

NEWS SAID HE SUFFERED A HEAVY LOSS IN THE SOUTH
HE IS NOW PACKING FOR A TRANSFER BACK TO JIANGLING

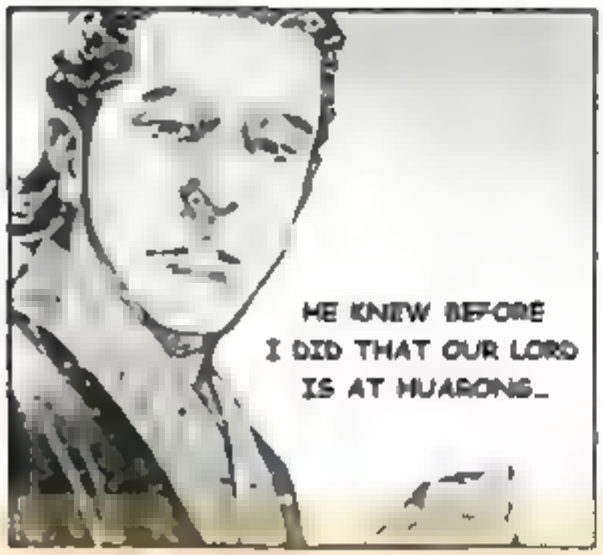

UNDER-STOOD

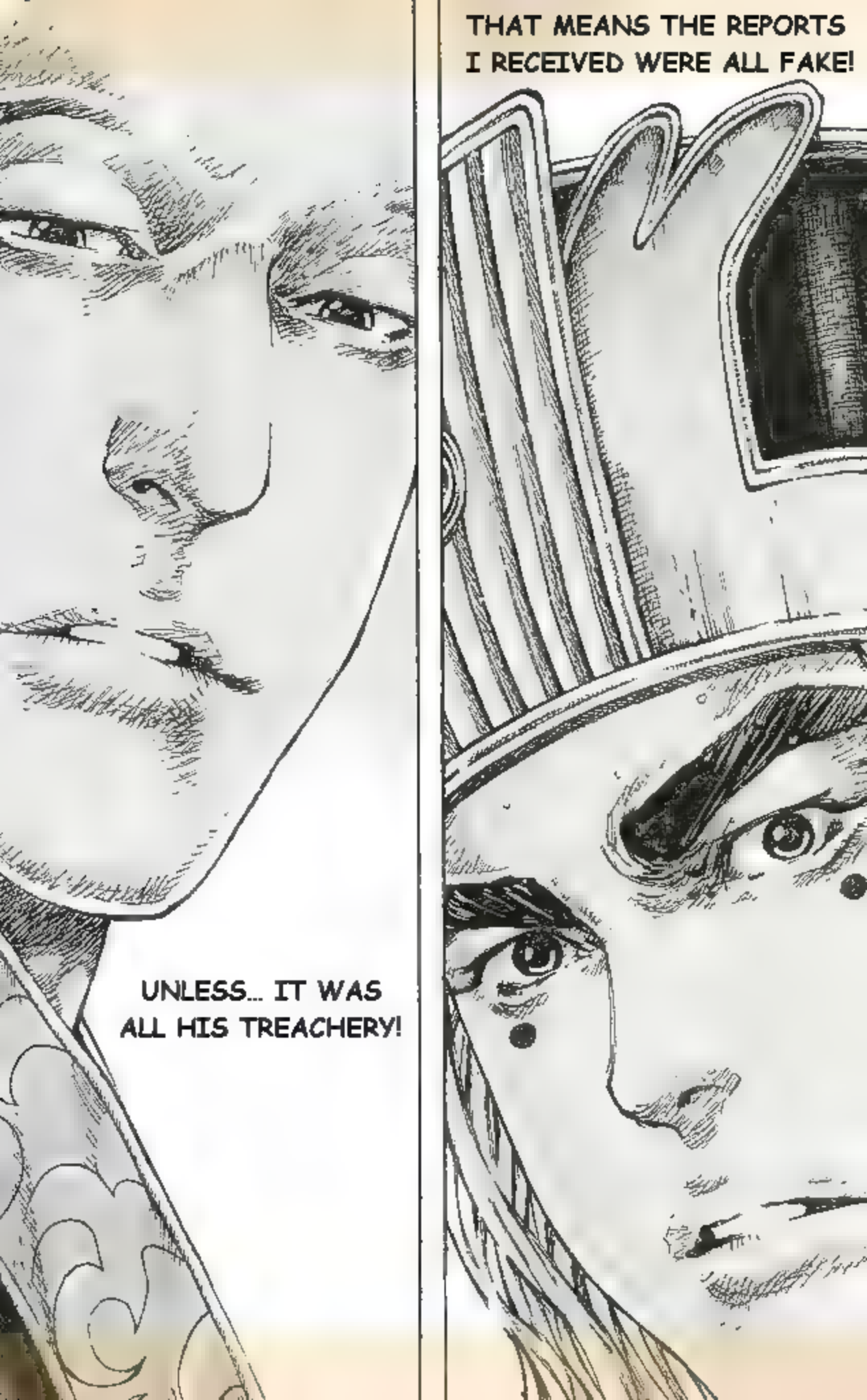

JIA XU HAD A SIZABLE ARMY, YET HE WAS WIPED TO THE FLOOR THE MORALE PLUMMETED...
OUR LORD MUST BE FURIOUS YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL TOO, SECRETARIAT...

RELEASE THEM NOW!


WHO FRAMED THESE MEN AS INSIDERS? THE REAL INSIDERS_
HAVE ALREADY BEEN ERADICATED BY THEM BEFORE THEY HEADED OUT

HOW DARE YOU HINDER THE REINFORCE-MENTS?
OUR LORD IS IN A CRISIS AT THE HUARONG PATH


HE KNEW BEFORE I DID THAT OUR LORD IS AT HUARONG_

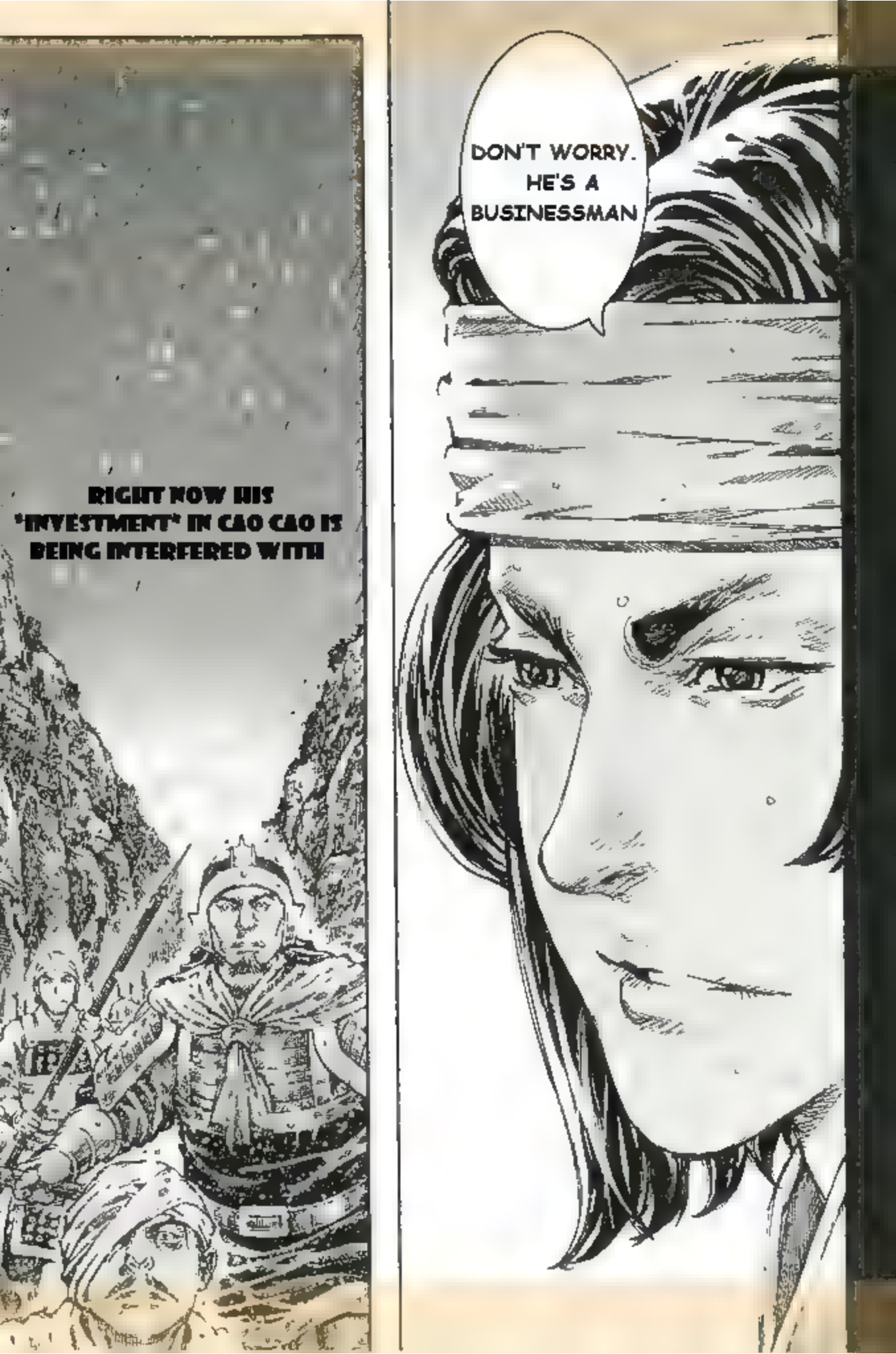

THAT MEANS THE REPORTS I RECEIVED WERE ALL FAKE!
UNLESS... IT WAS ALL HIS TREACHERY!

WHY, MASTER?
EVEN IF THE ODDS ARE IN OUR FAVOR AT RED CLIFF,
I MUST PLAN FOR THE WORST
BUT... ONE THING TROUBLES ME GREATLY

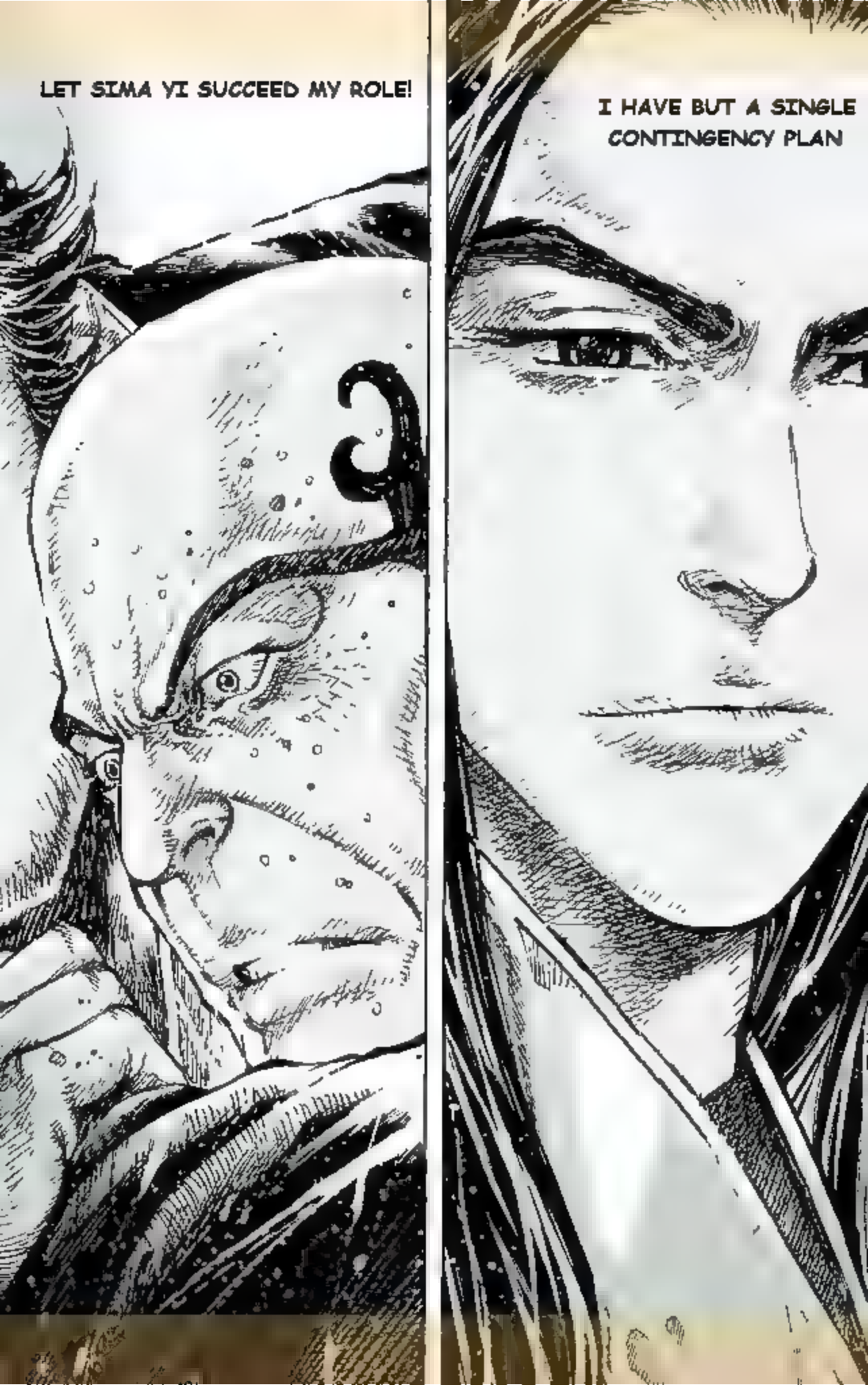
ZHUGE LIANG WOULD NEVER JOIN THE FRAY WITHOUT ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE

AND IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEAT ZHOU YU IN NAVAL WARFARE
BUT NORTHERNERS COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT_
I ONLY PRAY FOR A VICTORY, THAT OUR LORD COULD RETURN TRIUMPHANT
YET A SINGLE MISCALCULATION COULD UPSET THE BALANCE, BECAUSE XUN YU AND JIA XU ARE NO MATCH AGAINST THOSE TWO
FOR OUR LORD'S WORLD,

YOU MUST FIND A WAY TO WEAKEN XUN YU AND JIA XU'S LEASH ON HIM!
WOULD HE REALLY ACCEPT THE MISSION, MASTER?
AFTER THAT, HE WON'T DARE TO REVOLT AS LONG AS YOU WATCH HIM CAREFULLY


DON'T WORRY. HE'S A BUSINESSMAN
RIGHT NOW HIS "INVESTMENT" IN CAO CAO IS BEING INTERFERED WITH

AND HE KNEW I FULL WELL I COULD NEVER
ACCOUNT FOR EVERYTHING AFTER WARDS

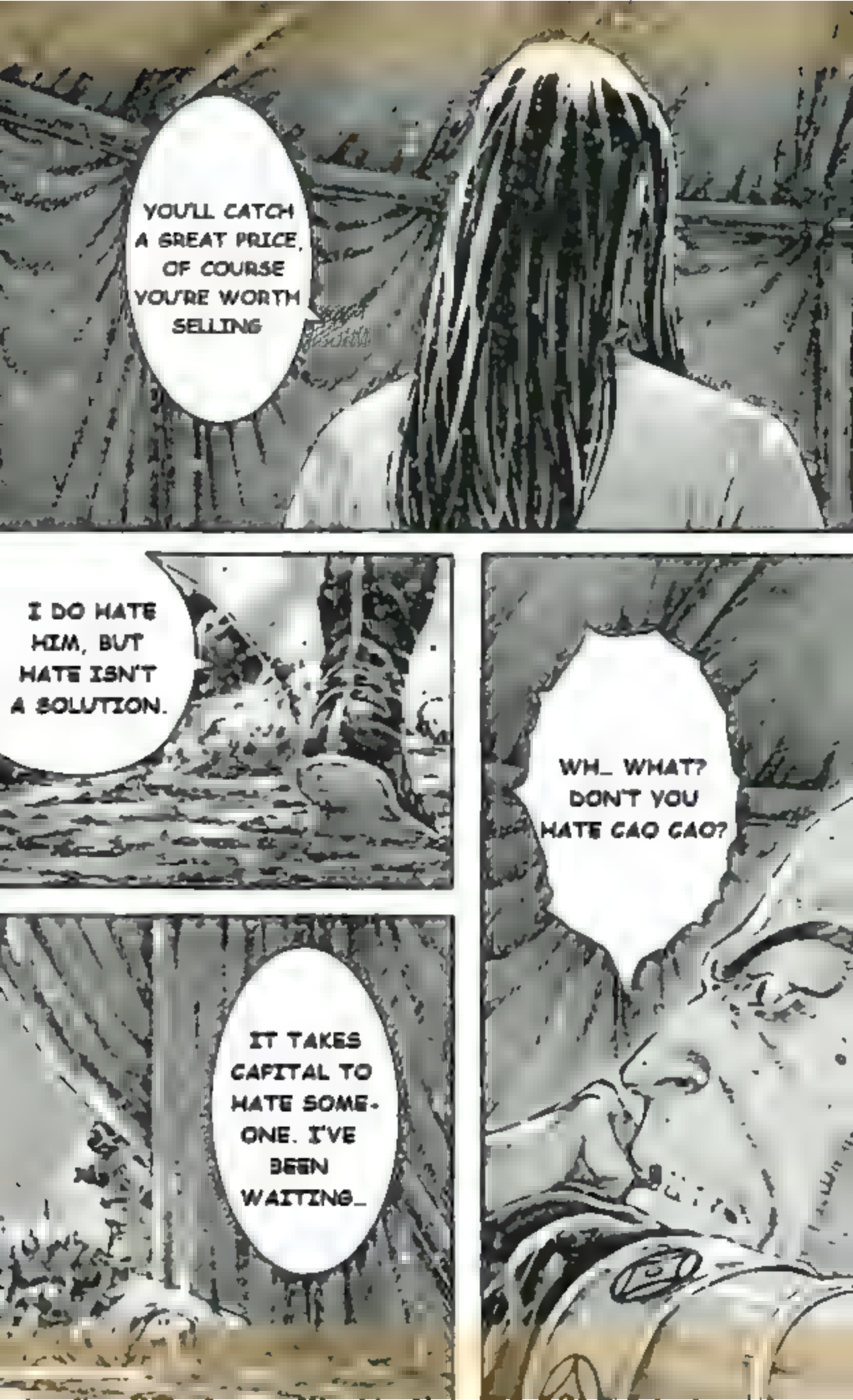

LET SIMA YI SUCCEED MY ROLE!
I HAVE BUT A SINGLE CONTINGENCY PLAN

OFFICERS, LISTEN UP!
THERE ARE NO ZUO CI HERE. ONLY "GOATS"! AND THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SLAUGHTER GOAT!
AH... GOATS...
YES, ONLY GOATS...
GOATS... THERE ARE GOATS HERE

YES ONLY GOATS
HA... GOATS... THE GOATS ARE TALKING
WE MUST BE CRAZY HUNGRY

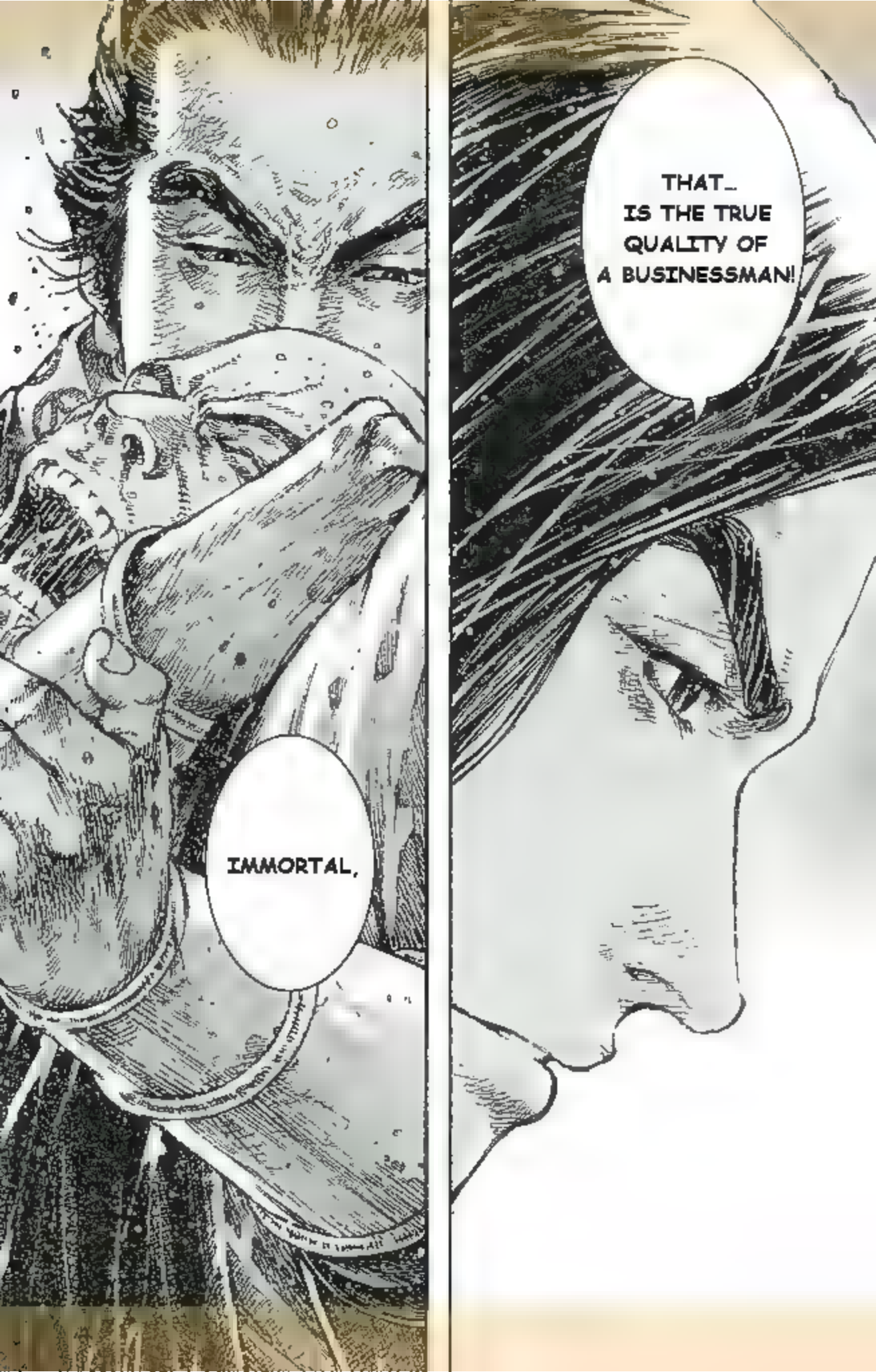
GET OUT THERE TO CALM YOURSELVES
FINE WE'LL CATCH THEM ONE BY ONE AS THEY EXIT
YOU HEAR THAT, OLD JIA? GOAT
HAHA, ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF THAT GOAT-FACE "YANG" ZHONG DA!

AH! ALL GOATS OUTSIDE?
HAHAHA! GOATS CATCHING GOATS, HILARIOUS!
CAREFUL. DON'T BREATHE IN THAT SMOKE
YES SIR
HE'S FINE, YOUNG MASTER OUR LORD HAS MERELY FAINTED
MOVE HIM TO THE NEXT TENT
BOY_ YOU SOLD ME OUT_


YOU'LL CATCH A GREAT PRICE. OF COURSE YOU'RE WORTH SELLING
I DO HATE HIM, BUT HATE ISN'T A SOLUTION.
WH_ WHAT? DON'T YOU HATE CAO CAO?
IT TAKES CAPITAL TO HATE SOME-ONE. I'VE BEEN WAITING_

WAITING FOR JIA XU TO LOSE INFLU-ENCE AFTER THE EASTERLY WIND
WAITING FOR XUN YU TO LOSE SOME CLOUT IN THE CAPITAL

I COULD HAVE EXPOSED EVERYTHING IN THE BEGINNING
WAITING FOR GUO JIA TO PROVIDE ME WITH AN OPPORTUNITY
TOO BAD NO ONE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED ME
IF I CAN'T ENGAGE BY FORCE, I'LL INVEST. THEN... SCHEME TO OVERTHROW!
SO INSTEAD OF INVITING A SNUB, WHY NOT FOCUS ON MY "OCCUPATION"


IMMORTAL,
THAT...
IS THE TRUE
QUALITY OF
A BUSINESSMAN!

SAY HI
TO GUO JIA
FOR ME

GENERAL, THE WATER LEVEL IS RISING. PLEASE RELOCATE OUR MEN IN FORMATION!
NO. WE'RE DONE FOR IF WE SCATTER!
BUT... OUR REAR DIVISION HAS FLED!
YES SIR
ZHONG DA, US COMMANDING OFFICERS HAVE ALL BEEN WOUNDED. WE'RE RELYING ON YOU HERE!

PA
DO ALL OF YOU MEN TRUST ME?
GOOD

EXCEPT I WANT YOU TO KNOW,

HE... IS ABOUT TO MAKE HIS MOVE!
下回、劃剿曹操！
下回休刊！
敬請期待

THAT THERE IS AN EVEN SCARIER MAN THAN GENTLEMAN ZHOU UP IN THOSE HILLS...